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TRADE DEALS

India, Russia try to resolve payment crisis

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SOLD FOR SCRAP

Abandoned railway track stolen in Bihar

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CLEAN ENERGY

Oil required during transition: UAE leader

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DATA POINT

There were 30 crore voters missing in 2019

The ECI is taking steps to address the issue

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END OF INNINGS

Finch calls time on his international career

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KIA numbers make good post-COVID recovery

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport recorded a recovery of 82% in passenger numbers since 2019 (pre-COVID year), with 27.5 million people travelling through the airport in 2022. This included an 85% recovery in the domestic and a 65% recovery in the international sectors.

BIAL, the airport operator, said relaunching key routes and introducing new routes connecting business hubs and travel destinations contributed to the recovery. "A total of 24.36 million domestic and 3.14 million international passengers travelled through KIA. December recorded significant numbers," BIAL said. There was a sharp increase in passenger numbers during the year-end holiday season.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 4

SC declines to take up pleas against elevating lawyer

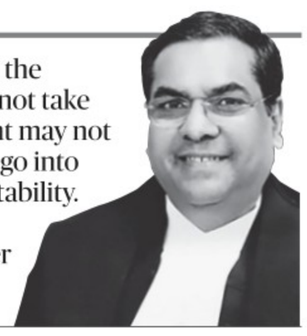
Bench says it cannot give a judicial direction to the collegium on Victoria Gowri's appointment; she takes oath as Additional Judge in Madras HC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain petitions challenging the appointment of advocate Victoria Gowri as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court even as the lawyer took oath of office in a ceremony held almost simultaneously with the top court's hearing.

"We have a fairly robust scrutiny process. Let us not interfere with that... Assuming that the collegium did not take everything into account may not be proper... We cannot go into the question of her suitability. We cannot direct the collegium to reconsider. This is the case of an Additional Judge. Her confirmation as a Permanent Judge is further down... So, we will see. I don't think we will be able to pass any orders at this stage," Justice Sanjiv Khanna addressed the petitioners.

> Assuming that the collegium did not take everything into account may not be proper... We cannot go into the question of her suitability. We cannot direct the collegium to reconsider
>
> JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA



The court hearing before a Special Bench of Justices Khanna and B.R. Gavai began at 10.25 a.m. while the oath-taking ceremony at the Madras High Court was scheduled at 10.35 a.m.

Initially, the petitioners said their lawyers were summoned to the courtroom of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud for a hearing at 9.15 a.m.

CONTINUE ON
» PAGE 10

Rahul Gandhi asks PM to explain ties with Adani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging that government policies are "tailor-made" to favour the Adani group, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain his "relationship" with businessman Gautam Adani.

In the Lok Sabha, participating in the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament, Mr. Gandhi said "magic" had happened after Mr. Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, with Mr. Adani seeing a meteoric rise from the 609th position in the global billionaire's list to becoming the world's second richest person.

In response, Minister Kiren Rijiju asked Mr. Gandhi not to make "wild allegations" without proof.

CONTINUED ON
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Total loss: Smoke billows from the Iskenderun Port in quake-hit Turkey as people walk past collapsed buildings. GETTY IMAGES

Quake deaths pass 6,000 as Turkey, Syria seek survivors

Associated Press
NURDAG

Search teams and emergency aid from around the world poured into Turkey and Syria on Tuesday as rescuers working in freezing temperatures dug – sometimes with their bare hands – through the remains of buildings flattened by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake. The death toll soared above 6,200 and was still expected to rise.

With the damage spread over a wide area, the massive relief operation often struggled to reach devastated towns, and voices that had been crying out from the rubble fell silent.

Monday's quake cut a swath of destruction that stretched hundreds of miles across southeastern Turkey and neighbouring Syria, toppling thousands of buildings and heaping more misery on a region shaped by Syria's 12-year civil war and refugee crisis.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

Inaugurations galore in city

BENGALURU
Ahead of elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated a slew of projects in the city on Tuesday, including 108 Namma Clinics, one of the biggest promises made in the previous Budget but had not taken off so far.

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Shares of Adani Enterprises rebound; regains some losses

25 The percentage by which shares in the flagship firm of Adani rocketed on Tuesday, clawing back some of its recent huge losses, after saying it would repay more than $1 billion in loans. The group owned by Gautam Adani lost around $120 billion in value after claims of accounting fraud were levelled by U.S. short-seller investment firm Hindenburg Research. AFP

ONGC to boost output from western offshore assets in 3-4 years

3.5 In $ billion, the amount Oil and Natural Gas Corp will invest over the next three-four years to boost output from its western offshore assets. The company will start producing oil from its ultra-deepwater block in the eastern offshore Krishna-Godavari basin from May this year. India wants companies to monetise their oil reserves to cut its import bill. Reuters

Total power generation capacity of India was 410 GW

174.53 In gigawatt, the non-fossil fuel power generation capacity of India at the end of 2022. The capacity includes 63.30 GW solar power, 46.85 GW large hydro, 41.93 GW wind power, 10.73 GW biopower, 4.94 GW small hydro power and 6.78 GW of nuclear power. Total power generation capacity was at 410 GW at the end of 2022. PTI

Loan apps indulging in predatory lending, says ED

859 In ₹ crore, the worth of crime proceeds attached by the Directorate of Enforcement in illegal loan app cases. Over the last year, agencies found a number of loan apps which were found to be indulging in predatory lending as well as charging of high interest rates. Harassment of users over repayment has led to reported incidents of suicides. PTI

Electric passenger vehicle sales decline in January, says FADA

10.5 In percentage, the decline in Electric passenger vehicles retail sales in January. According to automobiles body FADA, about 3,346 vehicles were sold in January 2023 compared to 3,739 units in December last year. Tata Motors's electric PV sales were down 17%. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The saga of a 'spy' balloon in U.S. airspace

What are spy balloons and what are they capable of? When did the Chinese balloon enter U.S. airspace? How did both governments react? Has China been accused of similar incidents before? How did Beijing respond after the balloon was shot down?

EXPLAINER

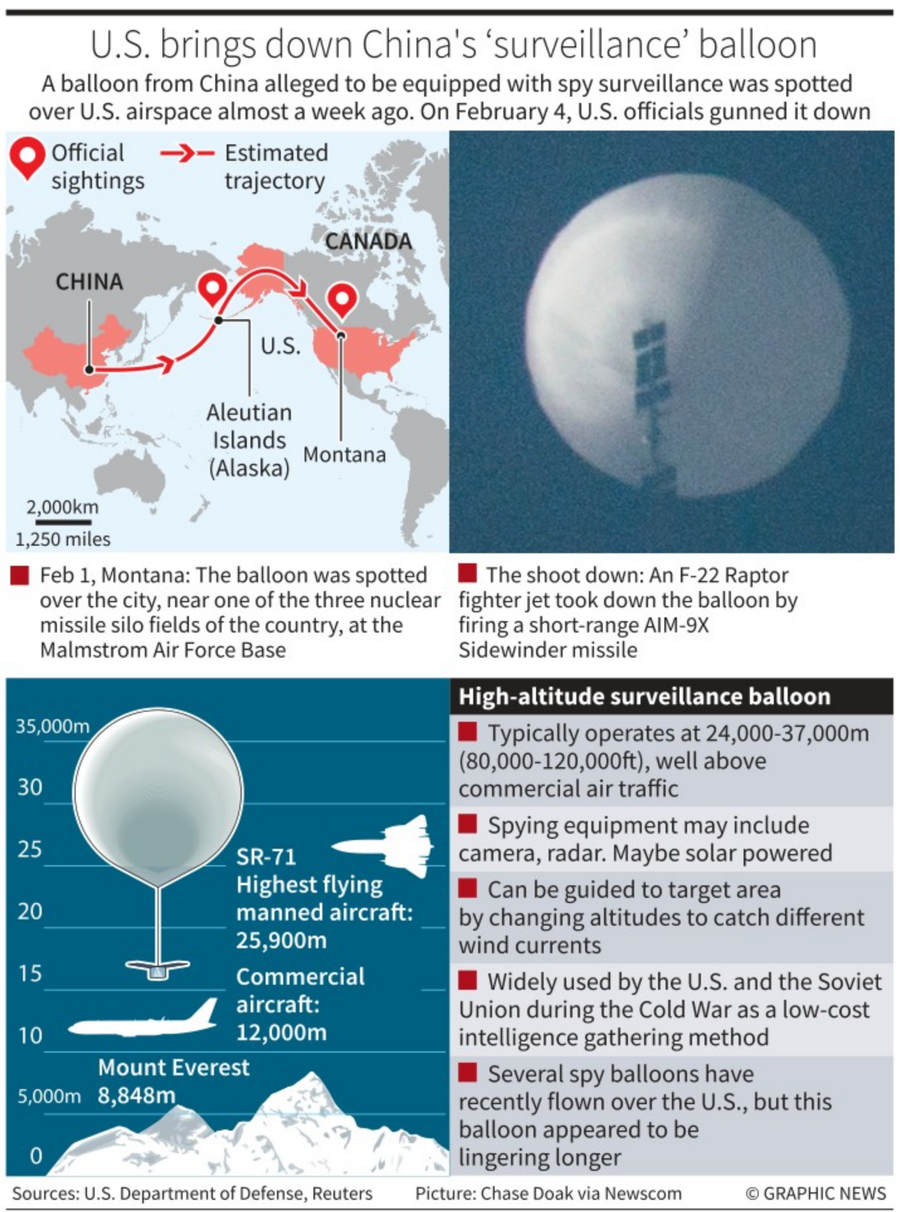
Sumeda

The story so far:

Last week, the U.S. shot down a Chinese 'spy' balloon, days after the surveillance device was first spotted over American airspace, bringing the dramatic saga to a climax and dealing yet another blow to the already strained diplomatic relation between the two sides.

What happened?

Reports of a massive white orb, believed to be the size of three school buses, floating high above the U.S. State of Montana captured global attention earlier this month. Ending speculations, American defence and military officials confirmed that the reconnaissance balloon had travelled from China, entered the air defence zone north of the Aleutian Islands on January 28, subsequently moved over land across Alaska and into Canadian airspace and crossed back into the U.S. over Idaho. President Joe Biden was briefed on the matter and the military considered shooting down the balloon which Pentagon believed was a Chinese surveillance tool carrying sensors and equipment to collect information about military and other strategic sites like Montana, which is home to one of the nation's three nuclear missile silo fields. Though the Pentagon acknowledged that the balloon was unarmed, it decided against aerial action at the time due to risks for those on the ground owing to its massive size and altitude. As a precautionary measure, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration paused aerial activity at three airports. As the news of the 'spy' balloon traversing American skies caused a sensation, the Chinese Foreign Ministry acknowledged that the balloon was from China after initial reluctance, but rejected claims of spying. It insisted that the balloon was an errant civilian airship used mainly for meteorological research that went off course due to winds. "The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into US airspace due to force majeure. The Chinese side will continue communicating with the US side and properly handle this unexpected situation caused by force majeure," the statement said. Beijing also expressed "regret" over the incident and insisted that it respects the sovereignty of other countries.



How was the balloon shot down?

Long before the shoot down, U.S. officials took steps to protect against the balloon's collection of sensitive information, mitigating its intelligence value to the Chinese. Ahead of the mission, NASA assessed the debris field based on the trajectory of the balloon, weather and estimated payload of sensors. Multiple fighters and refuelling aircraft, including F-15s and tanker aircraft, were part of the mission. But it was an F-22 Raptor fighter jet that took off from an air force base in Virginia that took down the balloon by firing a short-range AIM-9X Sidewinder missile. As per reports, debris was strewn across 11 km, with most landing in shallow water. After the mission was complete, the U.S. informed China of its action. The downing of the balloon by a missile drew a strong reaction from China which insisted that the flyover was an accident and criticised U.S. for an "obvious overreaction". The shoot down of the balloon has "seriously impacted and damaged" relations between the two countries, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

What are spy balloons?

Spy balloons are high-altitude surveillance tools that usually operate at 80,000-1,20,000 feet – well above the cruising altitude of commercial aircraft – to gather intelligence and carry out other military missions. Typically, a spy balloon is equipped with cameras and imaging devices suspended beneath the gas-filled white object to capture things of interest. Unlike satellites, balloons are economically viable. Due to their proximity to the Earth's surface, they can widely scan an area from close quarters and capture clearer, high-resolution images of the target. The disadvantage is that these are not directly steered, but can be roughly guided by changing altitudes to catch different wind currents, as per a study by the Air Force's Airpower Research Institute. They are also a relatively easy target.

Taiwan has accused the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) of using spy balloons in the past. A similar sighting was reported over Andaman and Nicobar Islands in January last year. There has, however, been no official confirmation or evidence that establishes its link with China.

THE GIST

- Last week, the U.S. shot down a Chinese 'spy' balloon, days after the surveillance device was first spotted over American airspace.
- Spy balloons are high-altitude surveillance tools that usually operate at 80,000-1,20,000 feet — well above the cruising altitude of commercial aircraft — to gather intelligence and carry out other military missions.
- Taiwan has accused the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) of using spy balloons in the past. A similar sighting was reported over Andaman and Nicobar Islands in January last year.

What has the Union Budget allocated to minorities?

Which are the most affected schemes under the Ministry of Minority Affairs? How much has education suffered? How have Nai Manzil and USTTAD fared?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

The Union Budget for 2023-24 came with a reduction of 38% in funds for the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The fund crunch is likely to impact spheres of madrasas besides general school education, higher research and local development in areas of minority concentration.

Which schemes are affected?

The worst affected scheme under the all-encompassing fund crunch is the Education Scheme for Madrasas which suffered a whopping 93% cut in allocation, down to ₹10 crore from the ₹160 crore in the previous financial year. The allocation of ₹160 crore was itself a comedown from ₹174 crore in the previous fiscal year. The total allocation for minorities' educational uplift was slashed to ₹1,689 crore from ₹2,515 crore last year with schemes for research as well as pre-matric scholarships experiencing a fund withdrawal or downsizing.

The allocation for research schemes for minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis was reduced by a little more than 50%, down from ₹41 crore last year to ₹20 crore this year. On the same lines, the government hugely cut the funds for pre-matric scholarships for minorities, down from ₹1,425 crore last year to ₹433 crore in the upcoming financial year. Completing the picture for fund-strapped schemes was the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJYK). The allocation for PMJYK came down from ₹1,650 crore to ₹600 crore this year. The scheme aims to provide socio-economic infrastructure and elementary amenities in minority concentrated areas. It was said to be a key part of the government's Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas initiative. The latest Budgetary setback comes on the heels of the scrapping the Maulana Azad National Fellowships for higher education.

Why was Nai Udaan grounded?

The Nai Udaan Scheme meant to help minority students prepare for the Union Public Service Commission examinations was grounded. It was argued that the scheme overlaps with other similar affirmative plans of the government.

The decision to cut funds for socio-economic and educational uplift of minorities has cast a shadow far and wide. For instance, the Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women which received ₹2.5 crore last year is now down to ₹10 lakh as per the new Budget. The Hamari Dharohar Scheme for conservation of minorities' culture and heritage which got ₹2 crore earlier, is now down to only ₹10 lakh. The worst sufferer was the Skill Development Initiative among minorities. It received ₹235 crore in 2022-23 but is now down to merely ₹10 lakh. The funds for Nai Manzil, an integrated educational and livelihood scheme, were brought to just ₹10 lakh from the earlier ₹46 crore. For the Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development scheme (USTTAD), the monetary allocation was slashed to ₹10 lakh in comparison to the ₹47 crore in 2022-23. The loan subsidy to minorities to study abroad under the Padho Pardesh Scheme also stood withdrawn.

What has the government said?

The decision to scrap various scholarships followed by significant cut in budgetary expenditure for minorities resulted in several protests with many students from economically poor backgrounds pleading for continuation of the affirmative action. This reduction in overall expenditure came shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an appeal to the cadre of the BJP to build bonds with Pasmanda and Bohra Muslims to make sure nobody was left behind in the nation's progress. The Budget failed to follow up his words with action.

THE GIST

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- The worst affected scheme under the all-encompassing fund crunch was the Education Scheme for Madrasas which suffered a whopping 93% cut in allocation, down to ₹10 crore from the ₹160 crore in the previous financial year.
- Another scheme which suffered the most was the Skill Development Initiative among minorities. It received ₹235 crore in 2022-23 but is now down to merely ₹10 lakh.

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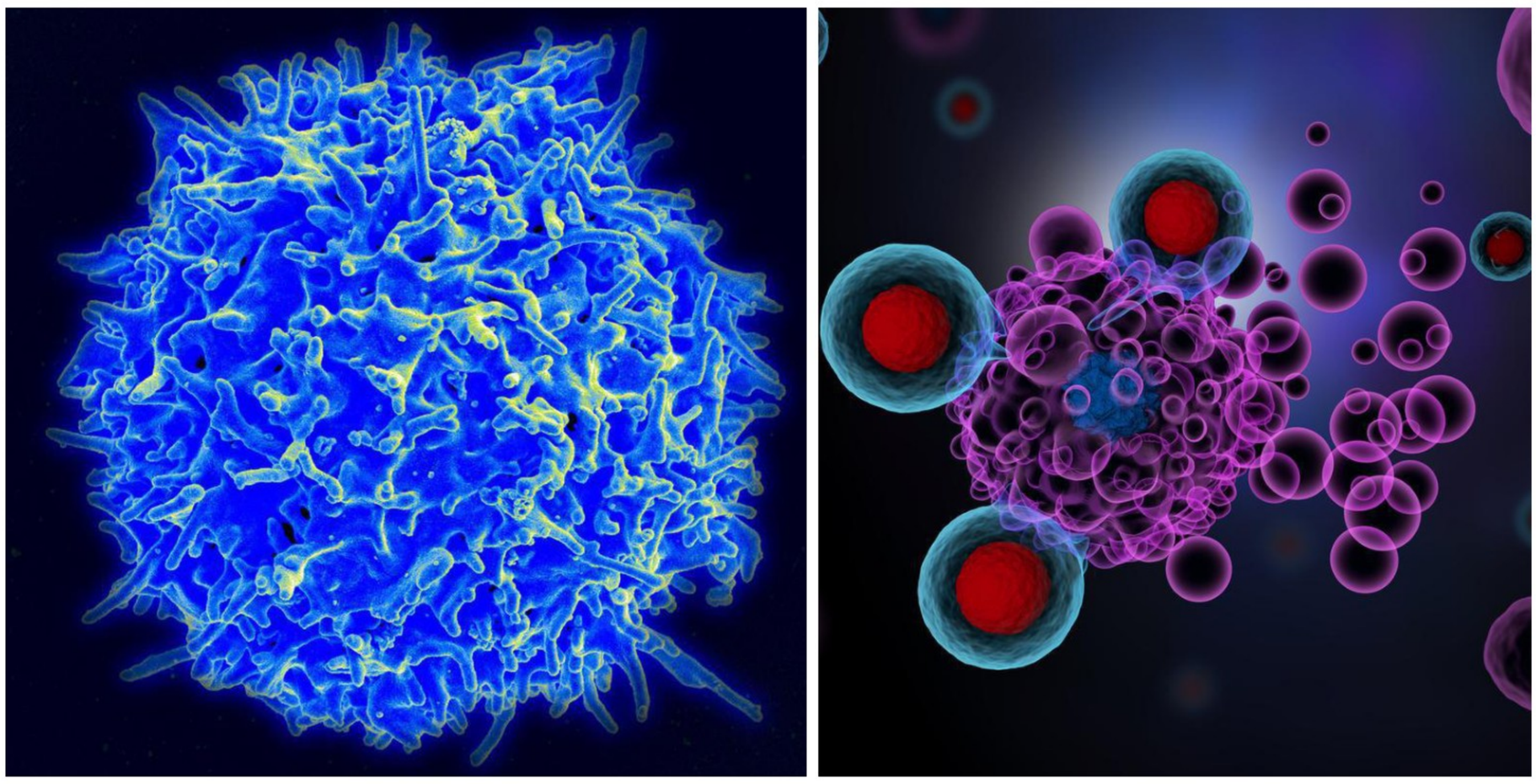


Scanning electron micrograph of a healthy human T-cell; a 3D render of T-cells attacking cancer cells. NIAID; ISTOCK

CAR T-cell therapy: the next step towards a holistic treatment of cancer

As cancer is a disease which constantly evolves to evade treatment, we need to keep developing more sophisticated therapies with as few-side effects as possible. A new development on this front, holding the attention of many researchers worldwide, is the CAR T-cell therapy

Narayana Subramaniam

The story so far:

The three major forms of treatment for any cancer are surgery (removing the cancer), radiotherapy (delivering ionising radiation to the tumour), and systemic therapy (administering medicines that act on the tumour). Surgery and radiotherapy have been refined significantly over time whereas advances in systemic therapy have been unparalleled. A new development on this front, currently holding the attention of many researchers worldwide, is the CAR T-cell therapy.

How has systemic therapy evolved?

Systemic therapy's earliest form was chemotherapy; when administered, it preferentially acts on cancer cells because of the latter's rapid, unregulated growth and poor healing mechanisms. Chemotherapeutic drugs have modest response rates and significant side-effects as they affect numerous cell types in the body. The next stage in its evolution was targeted agents, also known as immunotherapy. Here the drugs bind to specific targets on the cancer or on the immune cells that help the tumour grow or spread. This method often has fewer side-effects as the impact on non-tumour cells is limited. However, it is effective only against tumours that express these targets.

What are CAR T-cells?

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies represent a quantum leap in the sophistication of cancer treatment. Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy, which require mass-produced injectable or oral medication, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells. They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells, a component of immune cells, to attack tumours.

These modified cells are then infused back into the patient's bloodstream after conditioning them to multiply more effectively. The cells are even more specific than targeted agents and directly activate the patient's immune system against cancer, making the treatment more clinically effective. This is why they're called 'living drugs'.

How does it work?

In CAR T-cell therapy, the patient's blood is drawn to harvest T-cells which are immune cells that play a major role in destroying tumour cells. Researchers modify these cells in the laboratory so that they express specific proteins on their surface, known as chimeric antigen receptors (CAR). They have an affinity for proteins on the surface of tumour cells. This modification in the cellular structure allows CAR T-cells to effectively bind to the tumour and destroy it.

The final step in the tumour's destruction involves its clearance by the patient's immune system.

Where is it used?

As of today, CAR T-cell therapy has been approved for leukaemias (cancers arising from the cells that produce white blood cells) and lymphomas (arising from the lymphatic system). These cancers occur through the unregulated reproduction of a single clone of cells, that is, following the cancerous transformation of a single type of cell, it produces millions of identical copies. As a result, the target for CAR T-cells is consistent and reliable.

CAR T-cell therapy is also used among patients with cancers that have returned after an initial successful treatment or which haven't responded to previous combinations of chemotherapy or immunotherapy.

Its response rate is variable. In certain kinds of leukaemias and lymphomas, the efficacy is as high as 90%, whereas in other types of cancers it is significantly lower. The potential side-effects are also significant, associated with cytokine release syndrome (a widespread activation of the immune system and collateral damage to the body's normal cells) and neurological symptoms (severe confusion, seizures, and speech impairment).

How widespread is its use?

The complexity of preparing CAR T-cells has been a major barrier to their use. The first clinical trial showing they were effective was published almost a decade ago; the first indigenously developed therapy in India was successfully performed only in 2022.

The technical and human resources required to administer this therapy are also considerable. Treatments in the U.S. cost more than a million dollars. Trials are underway in India, with companies looking to indigenously manufacture CAR T-cells at a fraction of the cost. The preliminary results have been encouraging.

Will this therapy be expensive in India as well?

In India, introducing any new therapy faces the twin challenges of cost and value. Critics argue that developing facilities in India may be redundant and/or inappropriate as even when it becomes cheaper, CAR T-cell therapy will be unaffordable to most Indians. Those who are affluent and require the therapy currently receive it abroad anyway.

While this is true, it may be the right answer to the wrong question. Having access to a global standard of care is every patient's right; how it can be made more affordable can be the next step.

Investments in developing these technologies in India represent the hope that, as with other initially expensive treatments like robotic surgery, we will be able to provide economies of scale. The sheer volume of patients in India has the potential to drive the cost of treatment down.

What are 'cell therapies'?

The interest in the technology goes beyond providing a new lease of life to people with leukaemias and lymphomas. Even for solid tumours – like those of the prostate, lung, colon, and some other organs – CAR T-cell therapy has shown results, particularly in patients whose tumours have recurred or have evaded multiple lines of treatment. The challenge with harnessing these techniques for solid tumours remains significant. These are highly heterogeneous cancers that lack a consistent target with which CAR T-cells can bind. Progress in the field, however, has the potential to unlock a host of newer treatments on the horizon called cell therapies. They include personalised anti-cancer vaccines and tumour infiltrating lymphocyte therapies (where white blood cells that attack the tumour are extracted, modified, and reintroduced into the patient).

Cancer constantly evolves to evade treatment; similarly, we also need to keep developing more sophisticated therapies with as few-side effects as possible. Cell therapies hold this promise and will also help us understand this dreaded disease and its complexities better.

Dr. Narayana Subramaniam is head of the department of Head and Neck Oncology, Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Bengaluru

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The American classic film *Taxi Driver*, directed by Martin Scorsese, had its world premiere on February 8, 1976. Here is a quiz on other films by Scorsese

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Two of Scorsese's films explore the theme of Catholic guilt. Both these films follow the story of an Intalian-American boy. If one was originally titled I Call First, the other was to be called Season of the Witch. Identify the two films. Name the actor who essayed the role of the Italian-American.

QUESTION 2

This film is an American comedy-drama that follows the story of a mother who travels with her son across the U.S. in search of a better life. The actor who portrayed the role of the mother won the Best Actress award at the 47th Academy Awards. Name the film and the actor.

QUESTION 3

This is an epic religious drama, adapted from a controversial novel of the same name. The film depicts the life of Jesus Christ and his struggle with various forms of temptation including fear, doubt, depression, reluctance, and lust. Identify the film. Name the author who wrote the book from which the film was adapted.

QUESTION 4

This film is based on the writings of the 14th Dalai Lama, the exiled political and spiritual leader of Tibet. Identify the film. What does the title of the film mean?

QUESTION 5

The Aviator is an American epic biographical drama. It depicts the life of an aviation pioneer. The film was based on which personality? Who played the role of the aviator in the film?

Visual question:

Identify this film. Which French illusionist, actor, and film director has been portrayed in this film?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: This title of this film by Ghatak was loosely borrowed from a line from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. **Ans: *Meghe Dhaka Tara***

2. Satyajit Ray's film which was based on a book by this writer who was bestowed the position of the "Sheriff" of Kolkata. **Ans: *Jana Ranyu* by Mani Shankar Mukherjee**

3. Mrinal Sen's 1973 film which depicted the Naxalite movement in Kolkata. **Ans: *Padatik***

4. One of the films of this Bengali director is a Hindi remake of Sidney Lumet's classic, *Twelve Angry Men*. **Ans: Basu Chatterje's *Ek Ruka Hua Faisla***

5. One of the more poignant films made by this director features Bhaduri playing a vivacious young woman suffering from pernicious anaemia. **Ans: *Mili* by Hrishikesh Mukherjee**

Visual: This renowned filmmaker played a key role in Ray's *Shatranj ke Khiladi*. **Ans: Richard Attenborough**

Early Birds: Naume Basu| V. Siddhartha| Dipankar Baidya|

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Several readers want to know whether it is correct to use 'good' in the question, 'What is your good name?'"

"In some Indian languages 'good' is used before 'name' when the name of the person is asked. It is not ungrammatical. It is a matter of culture rather than grammar. It is not used in English. But I don't think anyone will object to being told that his name is a good one!"

"Mr. S. Suresha of Nyamathi (Kamataka) wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) A memo was served with him, (b) A memo was served on him."

" 'A memo was served on him' is correct. To serve on' means 'to bring to notice, deliver, or execute as required by law'. This is a legal expression. You can also say 'He was served with a memo'."

"Mr. Sambhapur G. Kasinath of Sandur wants to know the meaning of 'flibbertigibbet'."

"It means 'a silly, gossipy, frivolous person'. 'Ribberti' rhymes with 'liberty' and 'gibbet' is prounounced 'jibit'."

"Mr. P. I. John of U.C. College, Alwaye wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) ten years ago, (b) ten years back."

"Both are correct. 'Back' is generally used in informal contexts. 'Ago' can be used both in formal and informal speech and writing."

"Mr. S. Jayendran of Government Arts College, Madras, wants to know the meaning of the word 'fudge'."

" 'Fudge' has several meanings. When someone cheats in an examination, you say 'he fudged on his examination.' When someone doesn't keep his promise, you say 'He fudged on his promise'. When someone exaggerates or falsifies accounts, you say 'He has fudged the accounts'. The word rhymes with 'judge'."

"Mr. P. Sridhar of Kolar Gold Fields wants to know how 'Reuter' is pronounced."

"It rhymes with 'loiter'."

Word of the day

Wrangle:
an angry dispute; an instance of intense argument (as in bargaining); herd and care for (used as both a noun and a verb)

Synonyms: quarrel, dustup, row, run-in, haggle, brawl

Usage: *The shopkeeper threw them out, but they continued to wrangle on down the street*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/wranglepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈraŋgl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

As motorists settle traffic fines using rebate window, several fake number plate cases flagged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With thousands of motorists queuing up everyday to clear pending traffic violation cases, social media is abuzz with complaints by motorists contesting penalties levied against their vehicle numbers.

Many motorists, who have checked the photo and video of the violation provided by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, have also pointed out that someone was misusing their vehicle number on a different vehicle. At least 100 such cases of fake number plates have come to light over the last four days ever since the 50% rebate window was opened on February 3. The BTP has disposed of over 14 lakh cases and collected over ₹41 crore in the last four days.

City-based homemaker Nandakumari, who owns a scooter, was shocked to see she had dues of ₹16,000 after rebate over pending traffic violation cases. When she carefully checked all the photos and videos the BTP had tagged with the listed violations, she found only one genuine case against her vehicle and the rest were against vehicles misusing her registration number. She visited the Traffic Management Centre on Tuesday and contested the cases against her.

Another scooter rider Bhavani, who had come to TMC on Tuesday, to contest cases against her, said that her scooter registration number was being used by another woman. "The video grab clearly shows the scooter to be of a different colour than mine," she said. Vishvesh P., in his complaint on the Twitter account of the BTP, said that he was fined repeatedly for offences caused by other bike owners for the numbers of his two scooters. Similarly, motorist Kishore Kumar said that he had a bike but the violations attributed to his bike number were that of a scooter.

M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic, Bengaluru, termed this a "good development" as the rebate window had prompted scores of motorists to check for violation cases pending against their vehicle numbers leading to uncovering several cases of fake number plates.

The BTP has now launched a special drive to crack down on such vehicles with fake number plates. "The registration number of the disputed vehicles are fed into the enforcement cameras installed in and around the city, which will send alerts to the traffic control room soon after locating such vehicles facilitating enforcement. We have also roped in law and order police to identify such vehicles and book criminal cases against the owners," Dr. Saleem said. "As far as genuine vehicle owners are concerned, the cases will be waived after cross checking with the database," he added.

Motorists thronged the traffic management centre in Bengaluru to pay pending fines on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

In figures

50% rebate window: **February 3 to 11**

Cases disposed of till Tuesday night	Penalty collected till Tuesday night
14,71,593	₹41,20,89,231

Pay traffic fine using KSP app, the official app of the Karnataka State Police

Download from

Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.capulustech.ksppqrs

iOS: https://itunes.apple.com/in/app/karnataka-state-police/id1358964762?mt=8

Woman charred to death in fire accident; 700 evacuated in another incident

The 55-year old resident of Vellipuram in Malleswaram died in the accidental fire that broke out from a stove, according to the police; electrical short circuit suspected to be cause of the fire near Jakkur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A fire accident at a residence in the city on Tuesday left a 55-year-old woman charred to death. In another incident, over 700 occupants of a commercial building complex that houses a software firm were evacuated to safety after a fire broke out.

Mary, 55, the resident of Vellipuram in Malleswaram behind Mantri Mall, died in the accidental fire that broke out, probably from the stove. The incident occurred around 4 p.m. when Mary was alone in her single-room house. According to the police, Mary had lit the gas stove, which was surrounded by groceries, clothes, and other material. The police suspect that Mary's saree or the other items surrounding the gas stove caught fire and soon it spread.

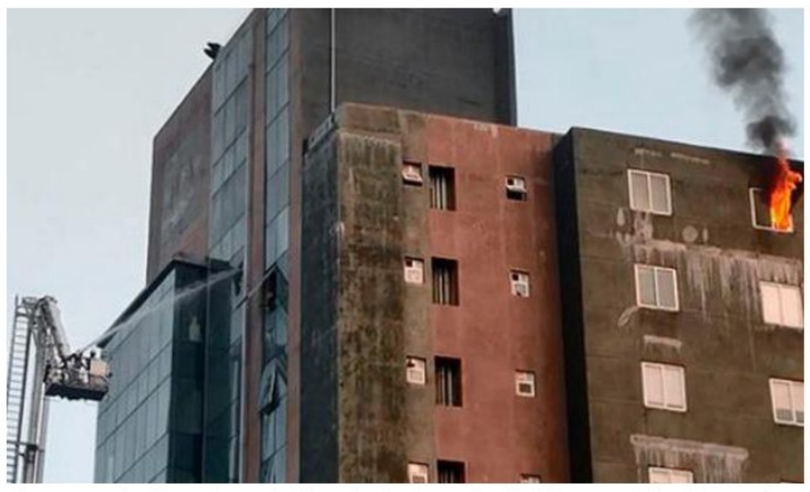
Neighbours on hearing screams rushed to her help and alerted the fire and emergency services. A fire tender rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Fire and emergency service officials along with BESCOM officials and police are probing further to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

Mary was living in the room along with her daughter Priya, who was out for work at the time of incident.

In the other incident, the fire that broke out on the eighth floor of a commercial building near Jakkur on Tuesday evening. No casualties were reported even as over 700 staff in the building were evacuated to safety soon. According to the police, the fire broke out on the top floor of NCC Urban building in front of Jakkur Aerodrome.

Gokul, an employee, alerted the fire and emergency officials. The fire was contained after three hours of operation. Furniture and electronic gadgets in the firm have been gutted.

Though electrical short circuit is suspected to be the cause, officials including a team of FSL, police, and electrical inspectorate, are investigating.



Fire personnel trying to douse the blaze that broke out in a building near Jakkur in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cash custodian on the run with ₹1.3 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have launched a massive manhunt for the custodian of a cash management company who fled with ₹1.3 crore.

The accused Rajesh Mesta was working with Secure Value India Ltd. for the last 11 years and was in charge of depositing cash to ATMs in and around south division. According to the police, the incident came to light when the office found Rajesh missing from work without informing them and his mobile was switched off. The officials conducted an audit to find the ATMs coming under him were short of ₹1.3 crore.

Rajesh was last seen with his colleague going around the ATMs to deposit cash. He hoodwinked the other staff and security personnel and fled after completing the routine work.

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in areas serviced from 66/11 KV Austin Town Sub-Station.

The areas to be affected are: Victoria Layout, Palm Grove Road, Agaram, Vivek Nagar, Austin Town, Anjaneya temple street, Lindon street, Xavier Layout Y.G. Palyam F2 Feeder: Domlur, Richmond Road, Rudrappa Garden, MG Garden, Neelasandra, Bazar Street, RK Garden, Rose Garden, ORC Road and surrounding areas.

The Hindu Young World Quiz comes to three cities

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

Young minds of Karnataka once again will get an opportunity to engage in a battle of wits as the 21st edition of *The Hindu* Young World Quiz will be held in Bengaluru on February 14, Mangaluru on February 16, and Hubballi on February 17.

The event, presented by the State Bank of India, is open for school students in two categories; junior (Classes IV to VI) and senior (Classes VII to IX).

Schools may visit www.thehindu.com/yw-quiz for details and registration. Each team must consist of two members for each category.

Any team can take part by paying a non-refundable registration fee of ₹200. The team members must be from the same school/branch. No cross-teams are allowed for registration.

Teams in uniforms with IDs issued by the schools are directed to be present at the venue one hour before the start of the event. There will be preliminary written rounds, and six teams will qualify (based on the marks obtained in preliminaries) for the on-stage final rounds. UNIBIC is the snack partner. Naturo is the nutrition partner, and Rasna, the beverage partner of the event.

Bengaluru: The event will be held on February 14 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Gayathri Devi Park Extension, 2nd Main Road, 16th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. For details, schools may contact R.N.B. Desai on 99861 96254.

Mangaluru: The event will be held on February 16 at Sri Mizar Govinda Pai Memorial Hall, Canara High School, Urva, Mannagudda, Mangaluru - 575 003. For details, schools may contact M.J. Mathew on 99807 71213.

Hubballi: The event will be held on February 17 at Deshpande Foundation Auditorium, Vidya Nagar, Hubballi -580 031. For details, contact Appanna Metri on 94492 81773.

भारत सरकार/Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन /Indian Space Research Organisation
भारतीय सुदूर संवेदन संस्थान / Indian Institute of Remote Sensing
देहरादून/Dehradun - 248 001
सं.: भा.सु.सं.सं./अकादमिक/2023/No.: IIRS/Acad/2023; दिनांक/Dated: 01.02.2023

Indian Institute of Remote Sensing announces following training and education programmes in Geospatial Technology and Applications:

1. **M.Tech. in Remote Sensing & GIS with specialisation in** (i) Agriculture & Soils, (ii) Forest Resources & Ecosystem Analysis, (iii) Geoinformatics, (iv) Geosciences, (v) Marine & Atmospheric Sciences, (vi) Natural Hazards & Disaster Risks Management, (vii) Satellite Image Analysis & Photogrammetry, (viii) Urban & Regional Studies, (ix) Water Resources (Last date to apply: 31.03.2023)
2. **P.G. Diploma in RS & GIS with specialisation in** (i) Agriculture & Soils, (ii) Forest Resources & Ecosystem Analysis, (iii) Geoinformatics, (iv) Geosciences, (v) Marine & Atmospheric Sciences, (vi) Natural Hazards & Disaster Risks Management, (vii) Satellite Image Analysis & Photogrammetry, (viii) Urban & Regional Studies, (ix) Water Resources (Last date to apply: 31.03.2023)
3. **Master of Science in** Geo-information Science & Earth Observation with specialisation in Geoinformatics **(M.Sc.-GI)** (Last date to apply: 31.03.2023)
4. **P.G. Diploma in** Geo-information Science & Earth Observation with specialisation in Geoinformatics **(PGD-GI)** (Last date to apply: 31.03.2023)
5. **NNRMS-ISRO** Sponsored Certificate Courses for University Faculty & Govt. Officials (Last date to apply: 17.03.2023)

Note: Apart from above courses, a few other courses are also announced. For further details about the courses, eligibility criteria, no. of seats, course fee, duration, age limit, etc., refer ***https://admission.iirs.gov.in/coursecalender***

IIRS reserves the rights for selection, screening and conduct of the courses.

निदेशक, भा.सु.सं.सं./Director, IIRS

NIMS UNIVERSITY RAJASTHAN
JAIPUR

REQUIREMENT

NIMS UNIVERSITY RAJASTHAN JAIPUR INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM MOTIVATED, QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED AND COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS

Website Developer
Analytical | Basics of the back-end PHP or ASP.NET HTML/CSS | Javascript | Responsive design Debugging | Code versioning | Hosting | Interpersonal frameworks and libraries | Understanding current scenario
Exp. : Min. 3 Years | Edu. Qualification : Graduate or Post Graduate

Content / Blog Writer
• Strong verbal & written communication skills, • Research, plan, develop, create and write blogs & articles about our institution • Excellent writing & editing skills in english
Exp. : Min. 5 Years | Edu. Qualification : Graduate or Post Graduate

Social Media Account Manager
Having experience of handling social media accounts e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Insta etc. of reputed university in India
Exp. : Min. 3 Years | Edu. Qualification : Graduate or Post Graduate

Head - IT Infrastructure
Having hands on expertise of handling university network, and handling IT infrastructure of a reputed university in India.
Exp. : Min. 5 Years | Edu. Qualification : Graduate or Post Graduate
(Note: IT academicians need not to apply)

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Scan, To apply online
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7976352475

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

NO:KST/CO/S&P/2063/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 11 Dated: 07/02/2023

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** are invited for supply the following goods/ services/ equipments:

Tender Nos.	Nomenclature of Items/ Services	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender
G-86/22-23	Procurement of Thermal Paper Slitter Tapeless Winder (without Core) Machine Hydraulic Binding Machine, Web-offset Printing Machine, Computer Stationery Printing Machine and Digital Printing Machine on turnkey Basis.	1.50	20.02.2023
G-87/22-23	Procurement of GHT U bolts & GHT Bolt with Nylock Nuts	2.12	20.02.2023
G-88/22-23	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Welding Machine on turnkey Basis	0.20	20.02.2023
G-89/22-23	Providing Fumigation Services for Premium vehicles of KSRTC	0.49	20.02.2023
G-90/22-23	Procurement of Sythetic Rubber Adhesive	0.57	20.02.2023
G-91/22-23	Procurement of Enamel Paint & Allied materilas	4.00	06.03.2023
G-92/22-23	Procurement of Vinyl floor mat	1.10	20.02.2023
G-93/22-23	Electro Resistant Welding Galavanized Iron Tube & Cold Roled Mildsteel Square Tubes & CRMS Round Tubes	8.00	06.03.2023
G-94/22-23	Procurement of Plywood sheets	1.00	06.03.2023
G-95/22-23	Procurement of Plastic Laminating Pouches	0.17	06.03.2023
G-96/22-23	Procurement of Ecofriendly Industrial Degreaser for Engine Block Head	0.24	06.03.2023
A-27/22-23	Procurement of Wheel Bolts, Nuts & Axle Studs.	0.84	20.02.2023
A-28/22-23	Procurement of Oil seals	2.80	06.03.2023
A-29/22-23	Procurement of Tierod, Draglink and repair kit	4.97	06.03.2023
A-30/22-23	Procurement of Engine Valve Guide and inserts	1.80	20.02.2023
A-31/22-23	Procurement of Fastners	1.75	20.02.2023
A-32/22-23	Procurement of Auto Electrical Items	13.10	06.03.2023
A-33/22-23	Procurement of U Bolts & Centre Bolts & Spring Clamps	5.00	06.03.2023

Notification no:3 Dated:07/07/2022, G-20/22-23 - Procurement of Trichloroethylene is been cancelled due to technical reasons. Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone.No. 0802230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225,7760990224)

Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/4544/2022-23

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 08		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:23
RISE	20:32	SET 08:27
THURSDAY, FEB. 09		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:23
RISE	21:19	SET 09:02
FRIDAY, FEB. 10		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:24
RISE	22:06	SET 09:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	19
Mysuru	32	14
Bengaluru	31	17

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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Aero India 2023: Defence Ministers' Conclave on Feb. 14

The conclave will comprise Defence Ministers of friendly foreign countries who would be attending the airshow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will host Defence Ministers' Conclave on February 14 on the sidelines of Aero India 2023. It will comprise defence Ministers of friendly countries who will attend Aero India 2023.

"The conclave would address aspects related to deepening cooperation for capacity building (through investments, R&D, joint venture, co-development, co-production and provisioning of defence equipment), training, space, AI and maritime security to grow together with the broad theme Shared Prosperity through Enhanced Engagements in Defence (SPEED)," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement on Tuesday.

The conclave is an opportunity for Defence Ministers of all friendly foreign countries and India to engage with each other to carry forward the Prime Minister's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World' for a secure and prosperous future for generations to come, it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a campaign for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) in the defence sector, which is aimed at increasing indigenous defence manufacturing and production capability to develop a self-sufficient defence ecosystem, involving like-minded nations in developing a reliable supply chain free of exploitation and disruptions by certain players; and provide affordable and robust defence equipment to friendly countries. The Ministry said that the Indian defence sector had shown promising growth despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

India is shifting its focus towards defence innovation and technology incorporation to design and develop future weapon systems.

Airbus to recruit engineering, IT talent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Airbus will host a public meet-and-greet event to recruit engineering and information technology (IT) talent at Aero India 2023 on February 16 and 17.

Aspiring candidates can meet Airbus executives at stand number CR7.1 in Hall C, where they can explore career opportunities in airframe design, avionics, aircraft systems simulation, data analytics, cybersecurity and cabin engineering. Candidates will get a chance to interact with senior Airbus officials to learn more about the company's growing footprint in India and South Asia, said Suraj Chettri, Director, HR, Airbus India and South Asia.

Ramp-up

The talent scouting event at Aero India is part of Airbus' ramp-up for 2023, when it intends to recruit more than 13,000 people globally. Visitors to the Airbus stall will also get an opportunity to see its extensive range of products, cutting-edge technologies, services and innovations from its Commercial, Helicopters and Defence and Space portfolios.

The stand will display scale models of the new-generation tanker A330 MRTT and the C295 military aircraft that the company will build under its 'Make in India' programme with its industrial partner, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, in Gujarat.

Visitors to the stand can also see digital displays of the earth observation satellite, the Pléiades Neo, OneAtlas, which provides premium satellite imagery, and Sirtap, a tactical unmanned aerial system (UAS).

Boeing to focus on local industry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At Aero India 2023, Boeing will focus on investments in growing local services and capabilities, workforce development and partnerships to support India's Make in India vision.

A key strategic goal for Boeing in India is to strengthen and leverage local talent and its growing network of more than 300 supplier partners, said the aerospace company.

The company's exhibit at Hall A, USA Pavilion (A7.2 - A6. 3) is built around the theme of "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities", highlighting local partnerships and investments in India.

Visitors will be able to experience the AH-64 Apache simulator and learn more about the combat helicopter's capabilities and a wide range of missions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that, my client namely **Smt.Anitha T** has entered into a sale agreement dated 03.02.2023 registered as Document No.JAY-1-08929-2022-23 of Book I, stored in CD No.JAYD1432 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore in respect of the agricultural land measuring **18.36 guntas (20,000 Sq.ft) out of 3 acres 20 guntas** in New Sy No.243/7, Old Sy No.243 which is carved out of 127, situated at **BHEEMANAKUPPE VILLAGE, Kengeri Hobli,** Bangalore South Taluk owned and possessed by Sri.RAVINDRANATH V

In view of the above, it is hereby notified that, claims of ownership or such other claims if any have in respect of the schedule property, the same may be notified to the address given below in writing together with supporting documents with in a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this notification. If no valid claims or objections are received within stipulated period, my client shall be at liberty to proceed with and complete the process of sale in respect of the aforesaid property. Claims/objections if any received on expiry of the stipulated period will be ignored.

A.T. MANOHAR, Advocate
No.55, 'SAISADANA', 13th'A'Cross, Sarakki Gate, 1st Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-78. Cell : 9902936363

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Anantha Sathya Narayana. K,** S/o. late. Raghavacharlu, aged about 55 years, residing at No-35, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, HMT Housing Colony, Nelagedaranahalli Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 053 and has lost the original Sale deed dated 29-02-2008 vide registered as document No-NMG-1-08025-2007-08, CD No-NMGD100 of Book-I dated 29-02-2008 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Nelamangala. A police compliant before the Nelamangala Rural Police Station on 06-08-2022 is lodged. It is further reported that he has not mortgaged the above said documents for availing loan to any Bank, Financial Institutions, Housing Finance Company or any other private money lender etc., in any manner, whatsoever and no charge has been created on the above mentioned lost/misplaced document.
Hence it is requested to the public if the said original document/deed is found, may kindly return the same and may be informed and contact the below address. If anyone has any objection in this regard may lodge their objections /claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of publication to the undersigned. If any person/s misuses the said documents, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.

H. B. CHANDRASHEKAR
H.B. LAW ASSOCIATES,
Advocate,
No-4/20, 1st B Main Road,1st 'N' Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010

M.S. Dhoni Global School clarifies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Responding to the news item published in *The Hindu* on February 5, 2023, titled "Notice to M.S. Dhoni Global School", the management of the institution at Kudlu has stated that they have permission to run classes with State Board syllabus till Class 8, issued by DDPI, Government of Karnataka and hold a No Objection Certificate to get affiliated to CBSE, issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of Karnataka. They said they are also a "CBSE candidate school" for starting class 9 in 2023-2024.

In the news item published in *The Hindu*, DDPI P. Bylanjanappa had stated that the school was operating without any affiliation to any board. However, in the notice served to the school, the Department had only raised questions about its CBSE Board affiliation.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Bengaluru airport's post-COVID recovery: Year-end holiday season saw sharp increase in passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), which made a good recovery in passenger traffic in 2022 after a slump during COVID years, saw a sharp increase in during the year-end holiday season.

BIAL, the airport operator, said that as many as 3.13 million passengers travelled in December, 2022 -- 2.74 million of them domestic passengers -- surpassing the pre-COVID record of 3.06 million passengers in December, 2019.

"On December 23, the airport recorded the highest number of passengers for 2022 at 1,07,825 pax," said BIAL.

It added that there was an impressive 98% recovery in air transport movements vis-à-vis pre-COVID numbers, and domestic movements witnessed a 100% recovery.

75 destinations

BIAL said that after two challenging years of the pandemic, most airlines resumed their operations fully, connecting to an increased number of destinations in 2022. The airport is now connected to 75 destinations across India, an increase of 16 destinations, compared to pre-COVID.

Post-resumption of scheduled international operations in March 2022, direct flight service between Bengaluru and Sydney was started, and Emirates launched the A380 service to Dubai. Further, Air India's thrice-weekly Bengaluru-San Francisco route was also resumed in December 2022.

"Other international airlines also resumed their flights to most major pre-COVID destinations in 2022," BIAL said. The operator also said KIA is a preferred hub for transfer passengers due to its regional connectivity.

Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, and Hyderabad were the top domestic routes in 2022, contributing approximately 40% to domestic traffic. Dubai, Male, Singapore, Doha, and Abu Dhabi were the top international routes contributing approximately 47% to international traffic for KIA.

BIAL said for the second year in a row, KIA stood as the number 1 airport for perishables in India and is now identified as the third busiest airport processing international cargo in India.

"We are encouraged by the steady recovery in passenger traffic. In addition to this, our cargo partnerships have contributed to our business growth," said Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Strategy & Development Officer of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

KIA traffic trends for 2022

Passenger traffic	**Air traffic movements**
Domestic **24.36 million** passengers	Domestic **178,257**
International **3.14 million** passengers	International **22,464**
Total **27.50 million** passengers	Total **200,721**
Cargo volume	**Total destinations**
Domestic **151,833 million** tonnes	100 (75 domestic and 25 international)
International **260,835 million** tonnes	
Total **412,668 million** tonnes	
Highest single-day air traffic movement	**Top five passenger routes**
693 on December 23, 2022	
Highest single-day passenger traffic	
1,07,825 on December 23, 2022	

Domestic	International
Delhi	Dubai
Mumbai	Male
Kolkata S	ingapore
Kochi	Doha
Hyderabad	Abu Dhabi

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the general public that my client Dr. Byalakere Shivanna Chandrashekar, S/o. late Shivanna .B, intends to purchase a Property, mentioned hereunder the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"** for a valuable consideration from its owner M/s.Prominent Housing, rep. by its partners Sri. Suresh Kumar .M and Sri. Chandrashekar .B.H, who have acquired their absolute rights over the Schedule Property, vide a registered Sale Deed, dt.14.03.2014 & Doc.No.VJN-1-04950/2013-14. If any person, whomsoever having objections, whatsoever, over the said transaction, may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing along with relevant supporting documents of your such claims, **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it shall be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest, in the said aspect and my client shall proceed with the completion of the sale transaction of the Schedule Property thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of a residential vacant property bearing Site No.1230, BBMP PID No.36-14-1230, situated at Magadi Road, Chord Road Industrial, Bengaluru, measuring East to West:43 feet and North to South: 90 feet, totally measuring 3870 Sq.ft., and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.1231, **West by:** 7 feet Public road & site No.1229, **North by:** Built-up houses, **South by:** Road.

B.V. VEERA ARAVIND, Advocate,
No.59/c-1, 3rd Stage, 3rd Phase, 6th block, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560 085.
Mobile: 9008001752

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಸಂ.ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಲೋಇ/ಧಾ/ಪಿಬಿ–2,5/ಟೆಂಡರ/2022–23/10119
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.02.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ನಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ (e-Procurement) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– 8443 ಕೇವಣೆ ವಂತಿಕೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ
W I No: 164454
WORK_INDENT NO. – 164454 ಒಟ್ಟು = 01
(1) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಸಭೆ (Pre-Bid Metting) ದಿನಾಂಕ : **14.02.2023 CE C&B(s) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.** (2) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ–ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **16.02.2023** (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20.02.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22.02.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ) (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24.02.2023** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/1068/2022–23

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Tender Notification No. 27/2022-23 Dated : 27.01.2023

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4,** form The Total no of works is 1, **H/A :- 5054-03-337-0-17-160- SH Renival** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 400.00 lakhs, Total no of works is 1, **H/A :-5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 150.00 lakhs, Total no of works is 1, **H/A :- 4059-80-051-0-29-423- Department Building** maximum estimated cost is Rs, 650,00 lakhs, And Total no of works is 1, **H/A :-4059-80-051-0-29-422** maximum estimated cost is Rs, 1800.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement only. Date of events as follows :

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 30.01.2023 to 15.02.2023 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	08.02.2023 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	17.02.2023 after 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	20.02.2023 after 16.00 Hrs.

More information can be had from the web site: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಚಾ.ನಗರ/565/2022–23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I NAYAMATHULLA Shariff S/o Khalandar Shariff, R/at 18/20, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru 560022 Has changed my name from Naimathulla Sharieff To Nayamathulla Shariff for all future purposes

I Nayeemuddin S/o Moinuddin, residing at Door No-7, 3Rd Floor, No-12, Katha No- 255, Bhattarahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560049, have changed my name to Nayeemuddin Moinuddin for all purposes in future.

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I Lakshmidevamma D/o Ravikumara, W/o Mahesh P, R/o:# 32, Lakshmi Venkateswara Nilaya Balaji Layout, Heggadadevanapura, Madanayakanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 562162, have changed my name to Lakshmi Mahesh for all purposes in future.

REAL ESTATE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that we the undersigned propose to purchase for valuable consideration the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule written hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from Mrs. Shreedevi Deshpande Puri who claims to be the lawful owner in possession and occupation of the Schedule Property.
Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and / or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 (seven) days** from the date of this publication and objection and / or claims received thereafter will not be binding on us and we will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claimants/ objections from any person/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment unit bearing No. 101, BBMP Municipal No. 139/36-2, BBMP PID No. 72-8-139/36-2, situated on the First Floor in A-1 Block, now known as F Block of the apartment building known as "Victorian Haven", consisting of Four bedrooms, having a super built up area of approximately 2572 Sq. ft, inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common use, constructed on Municipal No. 139/6, (carved out of Survey No. 57/5, then Domlur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), situate at Domlur Layout, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No. 72, Bangalore 560 071, along with two covered car parking spaces in the basement floor of the said building and the apartment is bounded on the: **East by** : Open to Sky,
West by : Open to Sky,
North by : Open to Sky,
South by : Common area & Flat # A-1 102

Madhsudan Bhavaraju & Sravanti Bhimarazu
Flat 202, The Victoria. Domlur, Bangalore - 560071 Ph: 9591448905

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client intends to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **Sri.K.R.Parappa** S/o. Sri.K.R.Rangaswamappa and **Smt.Sarika Veni** W/o K.R.Parappa, residing at No.33, 11th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore - 560 002.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.227/1, PID No.48-37-227/1, measuring East to West: 21 ft and North to South: 60 ft in all measuring 1260 sq.ft along with a building thereon situated at 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property No.2
West by : Property belongs to Sri.P.S.Lingaiah, Common Passage and Common staircase
North by : Road
South by : Property No.8.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
No.: B2/Timber.Auction/CR-02/2022-23 Date: 30.01.2023

Tender Notice Related to e-Auction of Forest Produce

It is hereby informed to the General Public that dates of 15.02.2023 and 16.02.2023 have been fixed to dispose through e-Auction the stock of Timber/ Firewood/Billets/Poles at the Government Timber Depot, M.K. Bylu, Agumbe Zone, Megaravalli. For the said Auction participation is subject to conditions informed vide the detailed notification of this office No.: B2/Timber.Auction/CR-02/2022-23, Date: 30.01.2023. For further information regarding the e-Auction this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Auction can be obtained by the official website of GoK www.etimber.in www.mstcecommerce.com

Details of Forest Produce kept for e-Auction

ಸ್ಥಳ	Name of Depot	Details of Produce		Lot No.	Approx. Quantity (in M3)	Date and Sessions
1	G.T.D., M.K. Bylu, Agumbe Zone	Acacia	Timber	450	2170.000	15.02.2023 I, II, III & IV & 16.02.2023 I Session
		Unsold Lot		09	18.087	
		Acacia	Firewood	127	3183.000	
		Acacia	Billets	135	2186.000	
		Acacia	Poles	29	2000 ನಂ.	
			Total	**750**		

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/no.88/02/22-23/1863

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OPPORTUNITIES

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You are not on your own

Support groups out to ease the heartache of laid-off employees are conspicuous across social media

Liffy Thomas

ISTOCK PHOTO

Support groups for laid-off employees are noticeably present on social media. They offer a shoulder to cry on, but do not stop with that. The comfort is girded by a sense of purpose. For example, #LetsFightBack and #BeBetterAgain collate a candidate's information into a compelling resume and share it with relevant recruiters.

Selected through campus placement in 2019, Gagandeep Singh nearly waited for one year to join the workforce, only to be told he could not be accommodated. Stung by the rejection, he started #BeBetterAgain in April 2022.

"I used to appear for at least two interviews a month but could not accept any offer as I had signed a bond with the first company," says Gangandeep.

Laid-off in November 2022, Tejas Sudhir Tapas has joined hands with his friends to run #LetsFightBack, a WhatsApp group, to help those sharing his angst.

Active on LinkedIn, Tejas spots job opportunities for the laid-off.

Around 500-members-strong, the community shares and reviews resumes and helps with referrals.

Gagandeep emphasises the importance of having a busy resume by avoiding inactivity following a layoff. "Do things that you like, which you can add to your *curriculum vitae*," he says.

Those unaffected by layoffs are also watching out for those that have been.

Shreyaan Daga, co-founder, OLL.co (Online Live Learning) has invited those affected by layoffs to apply for roles in his organisation. He is also known to share resumes of such professionals with founders of other companies.

Pooja Kadam, who represents Nirvana Insurance, posted this advice on LinkedIn for those seeking a job. "Look for companies that have received their Series A/ Series B funding in the last one to two years. These companies will have smaller teams that can make a big impact."

Even Healthcare, a Bengaluru-based startup, is inviting laid-off employees to avail a three-month wellness plan free-of-cost. It provides access to unlimited consultations with a team of in-house doctors, nutritionists, mental-health specialists and physiotherapists.

484 companies included in Bloomberg's gender equality index

Bloomberg has selected 484 companies for the 2023 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index (GEI), from a fray of over 600, as recognition of the progress they have made in promoting gender inclusion and implementing diversity policies. Nine Indian companies have made it to this Index.

The 600-plus participating companies had disclosed their gender-related data through what is called Gender Reporting Framework.

GEI participants are scored against five key pillars: leadership and talent pipeline, equal pay and gender pay parity, inclusive culture, anti-sexual harassment policies, and external brand. In addition, exploratory questions were included in the Framework. These questions, surveyed but not scored, covered other areas such as race and sexual orientation, gender identity and ethnicity, says a press release.

For GEI members, companies led by women have higher representation of women at all levels. GEI member companies with greater than 30% women representation on the board have, on average, 27% of women executives within the corporation, as compared to 20% of women executives in firms with less than 30% of women on the board, the release adds.

Executive evaluations

Another theme amongst member companies is the integration of diversity policies in executive evaluations. This year, 64% of GEI members have implemented diversity and inclusion goals for managers in performance reviews, an eight-point increase from last year. The release notes the accompanying 2023 GEI Insights Report helps to illuminate the data cultivated, and provides a general analysis on the current state of social reporting in the corporate space.

Key areas include: Intersectionality, flexible work and employee engagement.

Nine Indian firms make it to the list

The nine Indian companies that made the cut in terms of gender-sensitive policies and practices are: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Firstsource Solutions Ltd, HCL Technologies Ltd, Hero MotoCorp Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, Tech Mahindra Ltd, Vakrangee Ltd, Wipro Ltd and WNS Holdings Ltd. Hero MotoCorp and Vakrangee Ltd are the new members from India on the Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index.

GENERAL

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हिन्दुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (एच.ए.एल.), केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की एक नवरत्न कंपनी है, जो कि दक्षिण–पूर्वी एशिया का एक प्रमुख वांतरिक्ष उद्यम है, जिसके देश भर में 20 उत्पादन/ओवरहॉल/सर्विस प्रभाग तथा 10 सह स्थित अनुसंधान एवं विकास केन्द्र हैं।
हिन्दुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड, उपसाधन प्रभाग, लखनऊ (उ0प्र0) में निम्नलिखित अधिकारी संवर्ग के पद पर भर्ती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है–
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Detailed advertisement, educational qualification, age, relaxations, application & selection procedure etc. are available in Career Option of HAL Website www.hal-india.co.in. The last date for receipt of duly completed application is 28/02/2023. Subsequent amendment/ corrigendum, if any, will be hosted in our website only.
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2.	Associate Professor	From Admn-03/2023 to Admn-16/2023 dated 01/02/2023
3.	Professor	From Admn-17/2023 to Admn-30/2023 dated 01/02/2023
4.	Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Executive Engineer (Civil)	Admn-31/2023 dated 01/02/2023

Registrar

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Dr. A. V. Baliga College of Arts and Science,
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Dr. A. V. Baliga College of Commerce,
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Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts on permanent basis in Kanara College Society's Dr. A. V. Baliga College of Arts and Science & Dr. A. V. Baliga College of Commerce, Kumta (U.K.):

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Vacancy	Reservation
1	Assistant Professor of English	01	SC - 01
2	Assistant Professor of Kannada	02	SC – 01, GM - 01
3	Assistant Professor of Chemistry	01	SC - 01
4	Assistant Professor of Commerce	01	ST - 01
5	Physical Education Instructor	01	Reservation Not applicable (one person department)
6	Librarian	01	Reservation Not applicable (one person department)

Eligibility:
1. Pass with minimum 55% in Masters Degree in their respective subjects from a recognised University (50% for SC/ST candidates)
2. Pass in SLET/NET
(Those having PhD with course work are exempted from SLET/ NET. Candidates who were awarded PhD or who registered for PhD before 11/07/2009 shall fulfil the requirements mentioned in the UGC notification of 04/05/2016. MPhil degree is not considered for any appointment made after 11/07/2009.)
Selection procedure will be made as per Government and UGC rules and regulation.
Age Limit: Maximum 40 years for GM, 43 years for OBC and 45 years for SC/ST /CAT–I candidates on the last day of submission of application
Salary: UGC Pay-scale
Eligible candidates should send their application with resume to **Secretary, Kanara College Society, Kumta (U.K.) - 581362** within 21 days of the date of this advertisement along with a DD for Rs. 1000/- (not refundable) for SC/ST/CAT–I and Rs. 2000/- (not refundable) for others drawn in favour of **'Secretary, Kanara College Society(R.), Kumta'** payable at Canara Bank, Kumta.
Those in service shall submit their application through the heads of their departments/Institutions.
Incomplete applications or applications received after the due date will be rejected.
Candidates are instructed to send a copy of their application within the stipulated date to **"Joint Director, Regional Office of Collegiate Education, Dharwad".**
The department / Government has the right to cancel the post in any stage of its selection process and hence the candidate has no right to stake claim for the post merely on the basis of submission of application or attending the interview for the post.
Candidates invited for interview will attend the interview with all original documents and No TA/DA will be paid to them.
Date of Interview will be intimated later.
Secretary **Kanara College Society (R), Kumta**

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Closing Date for online submission of Application : 25.02.2023
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Professor: Ph.D* from a Nationally Reputed Institute / University with good research publications in reputed journals. Minimum 10 years experience in Teaching / Research / Industry required
Associate Professor: Ph.D* from a Reputed institute / University. Academic background with university rank and / or excellent portfolio in the area of specialization. Candidate with 5 years or more experience preferred.
Assistant Professor: M. Tech. / M. Sc. / MCA / M. A. in relevant stream from a Reputed Institute with 3 years experience and strong portfolio in the area of specialization. Fresh Ph.D* holders may also apply.
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Phone : 044-2476 5512 Extn : 210 / 405
www.sret.edu.in

INBRIEF

Helplines for earthquake casualties set up

Following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Embassy of India, Ankara, Turkey, has set up helpline numbers for people to connect on.

Samant Rohan Rajendra, First Secretary, email: cons.ankara@mea.gov.in (mobile number - 90-530 314 2203 and Tel: +90-312 438 2195-98). The Karnataka State Emergency Operation helpline numbers (Revenue Department-DM) will facilitate information and assistance flow (through MEA) for affected people of Karnataka in Turkey (telephone number 080-1070, 080-22340676).

People can also contact Bobby Rawat, Consular Officer, email: cons1.ankara@mea.gov.in (Mob:+90-535 490 4071), said an official release from Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, Revenue Department.

Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri calls on Modi, Murmu

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. He also called on President Draupadi Murmu. The meeting between two leaders has been described as a courtesy call, said an official press release.

Congress forms screening panel for Assembly polls

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the constitution of screening committee for screening of applications of candidates for ensuring Legislative Assembly elections in Karnataka.

The chairman of the committee is Mohan Prakash, Congress leader from Rajasthan.

Other members of the panel are: Neeraj Dangi, Mohammed Jawed, and Saptagiri Ulaka. Ex-Officio members are KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, Randeep Singh Surjewala, B.K. Hariprasad, M.B. Patil, G. Parameshwara and AICC secretaries in charge of the State, according to a release from the party.

It is inaugurations galore in Bengaluru ahead of polls; Namma Clinics opened

Chief Minister says his focus is on city's infrastructure, health, and education; announcement made in last year's Budget implemented

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is also in charge of Bengaluru Urban Development, inaugurated a slew of projects in the city on Tuesday, including 108 Namma Clinics that had not taken off so far depite being one of the biggest promises made in the previous Budget.

After inaugurating the building of Atal Bihari Vajpayee High School in Vrushabhavatinagara, the CM inaugurated buildings of BBMP referral hospital, a high school and college in Kamalanagar. In BHEL Layout, he inaugurated another school building in Marappanahalli. In the evening, he inaugurated more projects in Padmanabhanagar constituency.

A Namma Clinic launched by BBMP at Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Focus on health

Speaking after inaugurating the 108 Namma Clinics, the CM said his government has given utmost preference to education, infrastructure development and health. "Along with treating common ailments like cough and fever, the Namma Clinics will also have a diagnostic laboratory facility for diabetes and other ailments. The telemedicine system has been arranged through which necessary treatment will be given to patients with serious ailments through teleconsultations with experts. This has further strengthened the common people's healthcare. The promise made in last year's Budget has been fulfilled now," he said.

Stating that his government is "hyper-sensitive" and committed towards attending to people's health needs, Mr. Bommai said apart from free dialysis and chemotherapy, free eye-testing is done for senior citizens and spectacles are being distributed for free. Besides, 100 Primary Health Centres have been upgraded to Community Health Centres and organ transplantation has been given importance.

Master plan for UGD

Given that flooding in Bengaluru last year had acutely embarrassed the government, the Chief Minister said that a special master plan is being prepared to upgrade the city's underground drainage system based on the reports of IISC and other agencies.

He said the adequate grants have been sanctioned for development of roads and primary, secondary and tertiary drains. "We are in the process of finding technically resolving the major problem of flooding in some areas. To ensure there is no rain damage this year, we have initiated measures to set up a new rajakaluve at a cost of ₹2,000 crore," he said.

'Swachha Mandira Abhiyan' to begin on Friday at 12 temples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department of the State government will launch a 'Swachha Mandira Abhiyan' to ensure cleanliness at 12 major pilgrim centers of Karnataka on Friday.

In the first phase, Minister for Haj and Muzrai Shashikala Jolle will launch the programme at the ancient Nimishamba Temple at Srirangapatna in Mandya. The objective of the programme was to ensure there was a clean environment at Hindu places of worship, said Department Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri.

The department would set up waste management plants at 12 temples that received a large number of pilgrims and devotees. Ms. Jolle would launch the programme through videoconference at Srirangapatna on Friday.

Chennakeshava temple at Belur in Hassan district. FILE PHOTO

Temples covered

The temples covered under Swachha Mandira Abhiyan are: Sri Nimishamba Temple at Srirangapatna; Sri Banashankari temple at Bengaluru; Sri Ghati Subramanya temple in Bengaluru Rural; Sri Revanasiddeshwara temple at Ramanagaram; Sri Kabbalamma temple in Kanakapura taluk; Sri Kengal Anjaneya Swamy temple in Ramanagram district; Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple at Mandya; Sri Chennakeshava temple at Belur; Sri Durgaparameshwar temple at Mandarthi in Udupi; Sri Guru Thipperudraswamy temple at Nayakanahalli in Chitradurga district; Sri Lakshminarasimha Temple in Devarayanadurga in Tumakuru district; and Sri Rajarajeshwari temple at Polali in Dakshina Kannada district.

The Minister said the objective of the scheme was to realise the objective of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which brought about a change in social consciousness and behaviour.

Under the scheme, the plants would treat waste ranging from 3,500 kg to 12,000 kg per day and ensure clean surroundings at places of worship.

HC takes advocate into custody for a week for contempt of court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has taken a 45-year-old advocate into judicial custody for a week during the hearing of two separate criminal contempt of court cases initiated suo motu by the court against him way back in 2019 for making wild allegations against several judges and the judiciary.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, in its order passed on February 2, directed advocate K.S. Anil to be kept in judicial custody till February 10, the next date of hearing on the contempt case.

The Bench noted that he was earlier trying to avoid a bailable warrant issued by the High Court against him for his non-appearance despite service of notice and had not cooperated with the police when they contacted him for serving the warrant.

Also, the Bench pointed out that he had made derogatory statements in his memo in which he had alleged that the contempt proceedings initiated against him "are all a big conspiracy against him for fighting against corruption."

The accused-advocate had also avoided the query of the Court and had behaved arrogantly during earlier hearing, the Bench said, while also pointing out that he had put a question to the Bench as to how can he appear before two courts on one day.

"In spite of our attempts to hear him patiently, the accused started making gestures in the court," the Bench said.

"The statements made by the accused... making allegations against the judges of this court clearly show that the accused has no regards to the judicial system. The accused being a practising advocate and consistent behaviour of the accused on the earlier occasions and today making wild allegations against the judicial system and the judicial officers in particular indicates that he is trying to demean the institution and is lowering the image of the judicial system in public eye," the Bench observed in its order.

"As such, this court is left with no other option except to pass an order for taking the accused into judicial custody for committing contempt of Court," the Bench said while adjourning further hearing till February 10.

BJP enrolls 40.5L new members during Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party has enrolled over 40.5 lakh new members during the just concluded Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra campaign.

Disclosing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Higher Education Minister Ashwath Narayan, who is also the State convenor for the Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra that was held from January 21 to February 5, said a total of 40,50,351 members had become party's members during the campaign.

Activities under the yatra

The yatra, which primarily aimed at galvanising the party cadre at the booth level, had managed to take up activities in 39,572 booths of the total 58,186 in the State, he noted. In all, the party workers had visited a total of 22,55,562 houses in the State during the campaign to create awareness about the achievements of BJP governments at the Centre and the state, he said.

As part of the campaign, stickers of the party emblem had been pasted on 13,35,254 houses and 4,91,067 vehicles besides slogans on 1.94 lakh walls, he said. Also, 32,489 digital wall paintings had been taken up.

Mann Ki Baat

In addition to this, about 5 lakh persons had listened to the Mann Ki Baat programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 31,260 booths during the campaign, he said.

The coverage of houses had touched cent per cent in the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga and Mysuru, the minister said.

The campaign was launched by the party's national president J.P. Nadda in Vijayapura, while various prominent leaders participated in the campaign in different districts. The main intention of the yatra was to reach out to people through the party's booth-level committees.

Study to help India meet 30x30 biodiversity conservation targets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of scientists across academia, research, policy and conservation NGOs have conducted a prioritisation analysis to help India meet the 30x30 biodiversity conservation targets. The 30x30 biodiversity conservation refers to conserving biodiversity on 30% of the planet by 2030.

In the analysis, scientists and conservation practitioners from 15 Indian and international institutions – including National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) – explored how a landscape-based approach can be used to safeguard nature in a future-thinking India.

The authors of the study, which was published in the international journal *Nature Sustainability,* used Spatial Prioritization Analysis incorporating 34 attributes encompassing important ecosystems, water- and carbon-related ecosystem services, and diversity of threatened species, together with 11 categories of human-induced threats. They said that their results are stark: a large proportion of landscapes of extremely high importance for nature and human well-being fall outside the bounds of current Protected Areas.

The 30x30 biodiversity conservation refers to conserving biodiversity on 30% of the planet by the year 2030. FILE PHOTO

"Ours is perhaps the first-ever nationwide assessment that integrates various aspects related to nature, and importantly, nature's direct benefits to humans (ecosystem services) to guide biodiversity conservation. The landscapes we deem to be of high importance cover ~850,000 sq. km area in the country. We need ways to share spaces with biodiversity through new approaches that go beyond Protected Areas," said Arjun Srivathsa, DST INSPIRE Fellow, NCBS and the lead author of the study.

Jagdish Krishnaswamy, from IIHS and co-author of the study, said that across India, 338 districts are key for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and of these, 169 districts currently have optimal levels of both biodiversity and ecosystem services. "Maintaining these areas emerges as an important national goal. In 169 other districts, investment in ecological restoration or healing of land and water ecosystems will be required. We have to reimagine conservation across the entire continuum from semi-wild to mega-cities, using well-planned land-sharing approaches that generate jobs and livelihoods with a healthy dose of land-sparing for very sensitive species and ecosystems," he said.

Kamal Bawa, president, ATREE, said the study is an example of science imagined under the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being, approved by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council and the science needed to advance India's commitment to the global 30x30 agenda.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

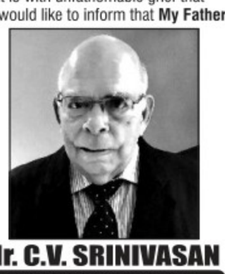
DEATH

D JANARDHAN (67), Retired Supervisor, Office Aides, The Hindu, Bengaluru passed away on 07-02-2023. Address: No.2, Ist C Main, 8th Cross, Sir M.V.Nagar, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru 560 016. Contact: 9845118641

AUGUSTINE AARON

State Chess Champion 1960
Cousin of Manuel Aaron.
Passed away on 29.01.2023 in London, Funeral in London on 9th February.
Deeply mourned by
Prema Aaron, sister.
Dr.John Aaron & Family, USA.
Vimal Aaron & Family, Canada.

It is with unfathomable grief that we would like to inform that **My Father**



Mr. C.V. SRINIVASAN

Attained his heavenly abode on **Saturday, Jan 28th, 2023** in State College, Pennsylvania.

He was born in **Cherussery, Kerala** and was a proud alumnus of **St. Thomas College, Trichur, Madras University** and of the Faculty of **Management Studies, Delhi University.** He was a member of the **Indian Audits and Accounts Service** and retired as **Additional Secretary** in the **Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**

He is survived by his Wife, Son, Daughter-in-Law and his Two precious Granddaughters.

REMEMBRANCE

7th YEAR FOND REMEMBRANCE

DOB: 18-7-1930 DOD: 08-2-2016

MATHAVAN G.,
ITI Retd.,
S/o Late M. Ganapathi
No. 114/3, Old Madras Road,
Near Swamy Vivekananda Ashram,
Ulsoor, Bangalore-560 008.

Inserted by:
SRINIVASA R.
99161 84689

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12TH ANNIVERSARY

PROF. DR. SSK. MARTHANDAM
M.B.B.S, M.S.(ORTHO),D.ORTHO,D.SC.(Hons)
D.O.B : 20/8/1941 - Eternity : 8/2/2011
Time has the power to mend appearance, wealth, and fame; but it always bends its knee in front of an amazing personality.
Missing you Deeply.... Family Members.

Police checking veracity of Maoists' visit

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

A group of suspected Maoists visited Aralam in Kannur district of Kerala on Monday night.

The police said they got information that the armed group, comprising a woman and five men, reportedly came to Vietnam Colony in the area, collected food items and returned to the Kottiyoor forests. The police said they were ascertaining the information.

Kannur District Police Chief (Rural) M. Hemalatha said a special operations group and an Intelligence team were functioning in the area.

Telangana moves SC in poaching case

State government files two special leave petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the Telangana High Court order for a CBI investigation into the alleged attempt to induce a few Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLAs to defect to the BJP

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Tuesday filed two special leave petitions (SLPs) in the Supreme Court seeking to set aside the directions of Telangana High Court verdicts over assigning investigation into BRS MLAs' poaching attempt case to the CBI.

In one SLP, the State challenged the verdict of the High Court's Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan dismissing all six writ appeal petitions filed by it seeking to set aside a single judge direction instructing the CBI to probe into the poaching attempt case. The second SLP was filed challenging the verdict of Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy verdict ordering CBI investigation into the poaching attempt case. These two pleas were yet to be listed for hearing.

Earlier in the day, in Hyderabad, the State filed an interim application before the Bench of Justice B. Vijayasen Reddy requesting the judge to suspend the order issued on December 26, 2022 for three weeks facilitating it to move the Supreme Court. Advocate-General B.S. Prasad, moving the interim application, made a mention before Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy about the matter in the morning. The judge posted it for hearing at 2.30 p.m.

On Tuesday, the State filed an interim plea in the HC requesting the judge to suspend the order to transfer the case to the CBI.

The A-G told the Bench that on Monday the Division Bench of Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice N. Tukaramji had dismissed all the six writ appeals filed by the State government over technical grounds. The Division Bench pronounced the verdict based on criminal jurisdiction issue. This matter thus pertained to intra-court appeal. The appeal against the Bench's direction could not be made before Telangana High Court, the A-G said. The appeal should be moved by the State before the top court, the A-G said. He told the Bench that the CBI might insist for transfer of the case and handing over of the files pertaining to the poaching attempt case in the backdrop of the Division Bench dismissing all appeal petitions of the State.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Assam, Sikkim and sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.5	13.0	Kozhikode	—	34.5	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	31.8	16.2	Kurnool	—	34.8	20.7
Aizawl	—	22.8	5.6	Lucknow	—	28.0	13.5
Allahabad	—	30.4	12.7	Madurai	—	35.5	18.1
Bengaluru	—	31.5	17.5	Mangaluru	—	31.7	23.5
Bhopal	—	30.0	13.0	Mumbai	—	32.5	18.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	15.5	Mysuru	—	32.0	14.4
Chandigarh	—	26.0	11.4	New Delhi	—	25.4	12.8
Chennai	—	32.3	21.6	Patna	—	28.4	12.4
Coimbatore	—	34.4	18.2	Port Blair	—	31.4	24.7
Dehradun	—	25.4	9.2	Puducherry	—	32.1	19.8
Gangtok	4.6	12.0	8.2	Pune	—	33.0	15.4
Goa	—	31.4	19.8	Raipur	—	32.5	16.2
Guwahati	—	26.6	12.4	Ranchi	—	29.8	13.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.3	5.6
Hyderabad	—	33.0	19.5	Shimla	0.5	14.7	6.0
Imphal	—	23.7	8.2	Srinagar	0.4	12.7	2.7
Jaipur	—	26.0	14.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	20.8
Kochi	—	31.2	22.8	Tiruchi	—	32.7	21.0
Kohima	99	18.0	—	Vijayawada	—	31.7	19.4
Kolkata	—	31.4	17.8	Visakhapatnam	—	30.0	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	15	29	138	129	
Bengaluru	18	11	24	126	121	
Chennai	23	33	42	140	102	
Delhi	10	176	26	386	330	
Hyderabad	5	49	32	141	142	
Kolkata	38	40	42	111	127	
Lucknow	22	79	63	248	200	
Mumbai	30	256	64	320	157	
Pune	—	22	44	341	217	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	8	—	—	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

University of Southern California, NIMHANS join hands for project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers from NIMHANS and the University of Southern California (USC), USA, have come together for the 'India ENIGMA Initiative for Global Aging and Mental Health' research project. The five-year project aims at bridging the knowledge gap around the various factors influencing the acceleration in brain aging.

The project's launch meeting is scheduled on February 9 at NIMHANS. It is aimed at studying the factors contributing to brain aging in the Indian population that can lead to an increased risk for Alzheimer's dementia and other related disorders, according to a statement from NIMHANS.

Funded by a competitive research grant of ₹21 crore from the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, USA, the project has been approved by the Union Health Ministry and the NIMHANS Institutional Ethics Committee.

Researchers from NIMHANS John. P. John, professor of Psychiatry and Faculty in charge, Multimodal Brain Image Analysis Laboratory, G. Venkatasubramanian, professor of Psychiatry and Faculty in charge, Translational Psychiatry Laborator, P.T. Sivakumar, professor of Psychiatry and Head, Geriatric Psychiatry Unit, will be part of the initiative.

According to a recent nationwide study, an estimated 88 lakh people live with dementia in India. To be conducted at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, the study will involve 400 participants (including healthy older adults and persons with memory impairment) who can volunteer to participate.

Virginity test on woman accused sexist, unconstitutional: Delhi HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ruled that conducting virginity test on a woman accused is "sexist and is in violation of human right to dignity".

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in a significant judgment, said, "the virginity test conducted on a woman detainee, accused under investigation, or in custody, whether judicial or police, is declared unconstitutional and in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution".

The ruling came on a 14-year-old petition filed by Sister Sephy, one of the two convicts in the Sister Abhaya murder case

Advocate Romy Chacko, representing Sister Sephy, contended that she was forcibly subjected to undergo virginity test by the Central Bureau of Investigation on November 25, 2008, against her consent.

Mr. Chacko said the virginity test was conducted by the investigating agency under the pretext of an investigation to substantiate their case.

"Most shockingly, in the present case, the virginity test was used to determine the truth of the accusation of murder against the petitioner (Sister Sephy)," the High Court remarked.

'Extremely traumatic'

"Undoubtedly, the test in itself is extremely traumatic for a victim of sexual assault as well as upon any other women in custody and is bound to have devastating effect on the psychological as well as physical health of the person," it said.

"Strangely, though the word "virginity" may not have a definite scientific and medical definition, it has become a mark of purity of a woman," the judge commented.

On the issue of taking action against the officials of the CBI, the High Court said during that period guidelines of the top court or otherwise to have declared such tests to be unconstitutional were not present.

"Right to personal liberty of an accused gets suspended the moment one is arrested as the same might be necessary for the State security. However, the right to dignity is not suspended or waived even of an accused, under trial or a convict," Justice Sharma elaborated.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001,
Ph: 080-25581383/ 25589112, Fax: 080-2558 6321
Email: contact@kspcb.gov.in Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/58/INFRA/2022-23/7473 **Date : 06-02-2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (SHORT TERM)
CALL-2

(Through Gok e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)
The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: Tender for expression of interest to carryout Environmental Audit of 144 Large Red category industries located in the catchment area of Chandapura lake and within the of the catchment area of chandapura lake. Approx Value of the work: **Rs. 59.00 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

DIPR/CP/4535/GREENFMC/2022-23

OUR MOTTO IS TO MINIMIZE WASTE GENERATION THROUGH JUDICIOUS USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Central-1, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/PC-1/TEND/15/2022-23 **Date: 07-02-2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(3rd CALL) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project Central-1, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Construction of New Urban Primary Health Centers (UPHC) Buildings, Repairs, Renovation and Upgradation of existing Primary Health Centers & Maternity Hospital in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone Limits, Bengaluru.	456.00	6.85 Lakhs (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through E-Procurement & remaining as specified in bid document

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries is **13-02-2023 upto 17.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central-1, BBMP. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **14-02-2023 at 16.00 Hrs. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Project-Central. 4)** Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 17.30 Hrs. on 17-02-2023. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on **20-02-2023 at 16.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer - Project Central-1, BBMP.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Central-1, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU

Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(77E):2022-23:JE2: Dated: 06.02.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act to the work Indent No : 162530 (Estimate Amount Rs. 400.00 Lakhs) **Under the Head Of Account :-** 5054-03-337-0-17-154 **State Highway Improvements. Last date for reciept of above tender :22.02.2023 upto 16.00 Hours.**

Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR / MNG / 1287 / MPL / 22-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 4)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date : PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2022-23/6190 Date: 04-02-2023 2) Name of work's: Raichur District Total 3 work's Raichur, Manvi, Lingasugur & Deodurga taluk Different types of roads, Building and other development works. 3) Amount of works: Min Rs. 48714798.82 Max Rs. 152253367.25 4) EMD Amount: Min Rs. 731000.00 Max Rs. 1523000.00 5) Period (including Manson) : Min 11 (Eleven) Months Max 11 (Eleven) Months 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender 21/02/2023 16:00:00 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender 22/02/2023 16:30:00
For More details visit this website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/Raichur/587KSMC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Shivamooga District, Shivamogga.
Ph.:08182–226268 E-mail: - dudc_smg@yahoo.co.in
No.SMGDC.DUDC/PLAN/15/89862/2022 Date: 06.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Shivamogga invites tenders from the eligible renderers, for the construction of works detailed in the table below. Two tender document procedure as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in **3)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **4)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, DC office, Shivamogga during working hours. **5)** Head of account: Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4

1. Date from which tender document can be downloaded: 06.02.2023 2. Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office): 13.02.2023 11:00 AM 3. Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: 21.02.2023 5:30 PM 4. Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: 23-02-2023 11:00 AM 5. Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: 06.03.2023 11:00 AM or Later

Name of Work: Construction of private Bus Stand near Bhagiratha circle under Amrutha Nagarothana Phase 4 scheme at Holehonnur Town (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT144348/CALL-2) **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Laks):** 123.95 (Excluding GST) **E.M.D. (Rs. in Laks):** 2.00

Period of completion: 9 Months (Excluding monsoon)

Change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. Paper notification will not be given.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District urban development cell, Shivamogga District.

DIPR/smg/No.80/02/mca/22-23/1862

FOR SALE
FACTORY FACILITY
in Mailam (Villupuram, TN)
22 kms from Pondicherry
25 kms from Tindivanam

7.5 ACRES LAND AREA
20000 SQ.FT FACTORY BUILT UP AREA
5000 SQ.FT SERVICE UTILITY AREA

• SENIOR MANAGER QUARTERS • STAFF ACCOMMODATION • EB ROOM • CANTEEN • TOILETS • PARKING AREA

• 220 KVA POWER WITH BACKUP • GOVERNMENT APPROVAL • MACHINERIES

+91-9487284277 sundar@acepondy.com

City Corporation Office, Davanagere.
No.: DCC:EE3:E.Tender:12:2022-23 Date: 06.02.2023

Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Corporation in single/double cover system through e-procurement portal for 01work and eligible Contractors/Agencies/Suppliers can participate through e-procurement portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by visiting the Electrical Section of the City Corporation during Office Hours and by contacting the Help Line of the City Corporation Phone No.: 08192 234444. (If there are any changes in the dates mentioned below, they will have to be seen in the e-procurement portal and notification will not be issued) Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: 13.02.2023 at 16.30 hrs. Last date and time for obtaining information regarding the tender: 20.02.2023, 16.30 hrs. Last date and time for submission of tender: 21.02.2023, 17.30 hrs. Date and time of opening Technical Bid: 22.02.2023, after 17.30 hrs. Date and time of opening Technical Bid: 23.02.2023, after 17.30 hrs.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/884/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E),
City Corporation, Davanagere.

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS3&6/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 8764 Dated:04/02/2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-4) for SCP-4059-80-051-0-29-422 & 8443 Deposite contribution (02) works of Indent No: 164810 & 164707 tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23. 2) Estimated Cost : **Minimum 2351.00 Lakhs & Maximum 8256.00Lakhs.** 3) Amount put to tender : Minimum 1678.15 Lakhs & Maximum 6357.13 Lakhs. 4) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Registered Class-I Contractors. 5) Tender fees and EMD details : Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 16,78,000.00 Maximum Rs. 63,57,000.00. 6) Pre Bid Meeting : 14/02/2023 upto 11.00 Hrs. (CE C&B South K.R. Circle Bengaluru) for work Indent 164707. Pre Bid Meeting : 15/02/2023 upto 11.00 Hrs. (CE C&B (NE) Kalaburagi) for work Indent No 164810, 7) Last date for queries : 17/02/2023 upto 17.30 Hrs. 8) Last date for submission of tender : 21/02/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs. 9) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 22/02/2023 at 16:30 Hrs. 10) Date of opening of Financial Bid: 25/02/2023 at 11.00 Hrs. 11) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 12) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1243/MC&A/2022-23

IN THE COURT OF THE XXII ADDL DISTRICT & SESSION JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
P & SC NO. 618/2022 (CCH-7)

BETWEEN: SMT. HUSNA .A
D/o Late M. Cheluvaraya Swammy,
Aged about 24 years, R/at 491, 6th Main Road, 2nd Cross, Gangodanahalli, Nayandanahalli post, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-39. **...Petitioner**
And : NIL **...Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioner has instituted the above P & SC petition U/s 372 of Indian Succession Act for granting of Succession Certificate, since the respondents are Nil, if any person having objection for granting of succession certificate to the petitioner, may be herebby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the P & SC in case No.618/2022 on **13.03.2023 at 11 Clock.** The Petitioner is the wife of M. Cheluvanarayana Swamy died on 28.03.2022. Take Citation/notice that, in default of appearance of objectors on the day mentioned above the P & SC No.618/2022 will be heard and determined in Objectors absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 06.02.2023.

Schedule

A the Statutory benefits if deceased husband of petitioner, M. Cheluvanarayana Swamy, which is held with the NIMAHNS, where the deceased was worked as Group-D employee No.E00808

By order of the Court, Asst Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocate for Petitioner:
GANDHI LAW CHAMBERS
Ramesha M.N., Purushotham. G,
Udaya Kumar. G, No.201,
Ganagiri 1st Floor, Cubbonpet Main Road,
Opp. to Amulya Sagar Hotel, Bangalore-560002.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 11/2022-23
Dated: 04-02-2023

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites itemwise tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "e-Procurement" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in KW-4 standard tender documents for 01 (One) work, amount put ot tender Rs 250.54 lakhs and EMD amount Rs 3.16 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 13.02.2023 Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website "www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in": Date: 14.02.2023 – 5-00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on: Date: 16.02.2023 – 11-00 AM. Financial bid will be opened on: Date: 23.02.2023 – 11-00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "e-Procurement" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in e-Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mysore.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/977/2022-23

Open season

Post-poll ties more crucial in Meghalaya than any pre-poll understanding

As a State used to coalition governments and the fluid loyalties of its politicians, Meghalaya has had at least a third of its 60 MLAs hopping parties during the five-year term of the outgoing Assembly. Even in the run-up to the elections scheduled for February 27, a National People's Party (NPP) candidate flipped sides to become the Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate, and a Congress candidate switched to the Trinamool Congress (TMC). In 2018, the Congress had won 21 seats, the NPP 20, the BJP 2, and regional parties and independents the rest. Meghalaya is the only State among the three in the northeast going to the polls now where the Congress has a fighting chance. The party, once the main political force in Meghalaya, has no MLA though it was the single-largest party in 2018. The BJP is contesting all 60 seats in the hope of reaching a double-digit figure. The TMC, which became the State's Opposition party overnight after 12 Congress MLAs switched over in November 2021, is fielding 55 candidates. The most influential regional entity, the United Democratic Party, is contesting 46 seats. The State's politics is driven by the dynamics of three matrilineal tribes – the Khasi and Jaintia tribes that are ethnically closer, and the Garo tribe which held the Chief Minister's chair for 34 years since the formation of the State over 50 years ago.

The Garos have often sought a separate State, although the demand has been somewhat muted this time. The Khasi-Jaintia Hills encompass 36 of the State's 60 seats, and the Garo Hills 24 seats. The ruling NPP and prime challenger, the TMC, are facing off in the Garo Hills, where the contest is the most intense. The issue of Bangladeshi immigrants, a staple of Assam elections, entered Meghalaya this time with the NPP and the BJP trying to portray the TMC as a Bengali party sympathetic to people from India's neighbour. The TMC and its allies have been accusing the NPP of misrule, and large-scale graft in power, health, education, PDS and other sectors besides striking a "lopsided" deal with Assam to resolve border disputes. The allies have washed their hands of the record of the government that they have been part of, trying to shift the full blame onto the NPP. Allies say the NPP called the shots and never consulted them on any issue. Allies in the outgoing government are contesting against it, with each one trying to maximise their strength in the Assembly and keeping post-poll options open.

A quick reset

India and Canada are looking at the big picture as they put behind discord

As India ramps up its international outreach in the year of its G-20 presidency, better ties with Canada are clearly on the agenda for the government, with the External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, hosting Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly for bilateral talks in New Delhi. This visit of Ms. Joly, who will be in Delhi again for the G-20 Foreign Minister's Meeting in March, and later again to accompany Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the G-20 summit, will be followed by several other Ministers for other G-20 meetings. Another reason for the acceleration in relations is Canada's deteriorating ties with China. In November, Canada announced its new Indo-Pacific Strategy that marked out China as an "increasingly disruptive global power", while referring to India as a "critical partner" with shared traditions of democracy and pluralism. In addition, Canada's search for new markets to diversify its considerable economic engagement with China coincides with India's push to conclude free trade agreements with many countries. While officials have been working to announce an "Early Progress Trade Agreement" this year, they are also hopeful of securing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement soon. The flurry in bilateral activity is in contrast to past developments, especially after Mr. Trudeau's disastrous India visit in 2018, and his criticism of the Modi government's handling of the farmers' agitation in 2020-21 that led to the cancellation of diplomatic activity. The ties began to be reset after he met Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Germany last year.

Several issues remain to be sorted out – New Delhi has continued to express concerns over the resurgence of Khalistani separatism and calls for a "referendum" amid the Sikh community in Canada as well as incidents of vandalism and violence targeting the Indian community there. In addition, Canadian pronouncements on developments in India, including on rights and freedoms can always set off diplomatic landmines. This has been a running thread in bilateral ties, which have seen many ups and downs over the past decades, despite a massive Indian diaspora population and student links. Canada was among the first countries associated with India's nuclear programme, but the relationship ruptured after India's nuclear tests in 1974. When ties began to improve in the 1980s, it was Indian anger over Canadian shelter to separatist Khalistani groups behind the 1985 bombing of an Air India flight and the prolonged trial. Relations were restored in 2010, with the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Canada, and an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation, and Mr. Modi in 2015. But they flagged after 2018. This year, timing and intent seem on course for a leap in ties which could bring strategic and economic gains, provided both sides also focus on side-stepping the possible political pitfalls along the way.

A polycrisis that is depleting Pakistan's resilience

S. Akbar Zaidi

is a political economist and heads the IBA, Karachi

Pakistan is no stranger to crises, In fact, any reading of Pakistan's history will inform the reader that right from 1947, it was the 'refugee crisis' that came into the picture immediately following Partition and Independence. As many as 14 million people crossed the West Pakistan/India border, with Pakistan having to deal with this development having non-existent infrastructure. There was concern and fear by leaders in both independent countries, that Pakistan would 'not survive', and that it might even 'return to the fold'. But despite an extraordinary and tumultuous first few years, Pakistan has continued to survive and exist. Since 1947, Pakistan has gone through scores of crises and near collapses, ranging from multiple political and constitutional crises, and also those around terrorism.

Crises and 'resilience'

Apart from a few good years, Pakistan's economy has been in a state of a perpetual crisis, dependent on the largesse and beneficence of donors, international financial institutions and charity from so-called 'friendly countries'. It has become a cliché that Pakistan is always in crisis, and it is the supposed 'resilience' (a derogatory and condescending term) which the people of Pakistan have, which sees them and the country through. However, a little after a month into the new new year, there have been multiple crises, all at the same time. To begin with, Pakistan, yet again, is facing an economic crisis, albeit one which is quite unprecedented when compared to the past. Just a few days ago, the Financial Times, in a particularly hard-hitting editorial, suggested that Pakistan 'is on the brink' of default and financial catastrophe, with a Sri Lankan-type situation staring it in the face. This at a time when a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is in Islamabad to hammer out an agreement with the battered Government of Pakistan led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Mr. Sharif himself has said, over the last few days, that the conditions being imposed by the IMF to release a mere $1.1 billion were severely harsh and 'beyond imagination'.

That this is Pakistan's 23rd agreement with the IMF is itself cause for grave concern.

> The country could be staring at its worst crisis in decades as it faces political and economic destabilisation and even the return of terror

A financial abyss, political troubles

Inflation stands at 28%, the highest in almost five decades, the Pakistani rupee has lost 17% of its value in seven days, edging closer to PKR 300 for one U.S. dollar. Foreign exchange reserves stand near $3 billion only – not even enough for a month's imports – and falling every few weeks. There does not seem to be any way of reversing this trend, easily and quickly. With severe import restrictions and constraints and the inability to pay in foreign currency, economists have already declared Pakistan to be in 'partial default'.

While there have been many situations and crises related to the economy in the past, such as at the time of Pakistan's nuclear tests in 1998, the macroeconomy has never looked this precarious now than even during the global financial crisis of 2008, or in the last five decades. The one time there was a possibility of a default was when 9/11 happened (2001) and Pakistan's economy had to be rescued and bailed out, receiving huge amounts of aid and rent for its supposed premium geopolitical location next to Afghanistan as a base for American designs and military ambitions in the region. At that time Pakistan was ruled by a military dictator, General Pervez Musharraf, and there was apparent political 'stability' with the military in complete control. This is not the case today.

While the economic crisis has only been made worse due to misgovernance and ineptitude enveloped in hubris over the last four years, there was until a few months ago a sense of political stability of sorts. Now, there is total political confrontation between the Shehbaz Sharif-led multi-party coalition, the Pakistan Democratic Movement, and the ousted and belligerent former Prime Minister, Imran Khan. Mr. Khan not only upset the political status quo which continued to survive since 2018 (when elections were last held), but has dissolved two (out of four) provincial assemblies which his party controlled. Hence, 67% of Pakistan's population faces a situation of no longer having an elected government, and the two provinces are being run by caretaker governments. Mr. Khan has also become the most vocal and vociferous critic of senior members of the Pakistan Army, singling out the former Chief of the Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who Mr. Khan accuses of conspiring to have him removed from office. In addition, the courts are yet to pronounce their verdicts on cases which could possibly see Mr. Khan disqualified and barred from contesting elections, a possibility which has made Mr. Khan announce that he will start a jail *bharo* (court arrest) campaign. Instability and uncertainty dominate at every level.

The terror shadow

If political and economic destabilisation were bad enough after many years of an apparent peace, one sees the return of terrorism to Pakistan. The case, on January 30, where a suicide bomber killed over a 100 worshippers in a mosque in Peshawar, accounts for one of the most serious incidents on a single day in over more than two decades of terrorism. The fact that there is little clarity which faction of the Taliban (or the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)) was behind this makes things far worse. In the past, such acts have been dealt with through a decisive response, but with the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Muneer, leaving for a five-day tour to the United Kingdom (on defence-related issues, between February 5 and 9) soon after the blast, questions have been raised about the resolve and response to end terrorism in Pakistan.

Pakistan has become a dysfunctional state where its elites have revealed their incompetence and hubris in failing to address fundamental and day-to-day issues of a public nature. Amassing wealth through privilege and being unresponsive to the needs of the citizens, they continue to rule whether under the façade of a democracy or through extended periods of military dictatorship. The absence of any sort of political opposition or alternative, particularly in the form of progressive political parties and groups, or even spontaneous civic action demonstrating anger, is Pakistan's biggest crisis. The label of being 'resilient' is fading.

The views expressed are personal

Fiscal consolidation in the context of the Budget

C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastava

is Chief Policy Adviser, EY India and former Director, Madras School of Economics

The Budget for 2023-24 has attempted to address the aspirations of different segments of society. It is a good effort in a difficult situation. But how far do the Budget provisions go to meet the two fundamental goals of growth and stability? The two must go together for sustained growth over the medium term, which will be the answer to many of India's socioeconomic problems.

Budgetary support to growth

Growth is affected by the size of government expenditure and its revenue and capital components. Government expenditure is budgeted to grow at 7.5% while nominal GDP growth is estimated to fall from 15.4% in 2022-23 to 10.5% in 2023-24. Thus, the total expenditure relative to GDP is shown to fall from 15.3% in 2022-23 (RE) to 14.9% in 2023-24 (BE). The composition of government expenditure, however, would be growth positive.

Increase in the Centre's capital expenditure is budgeted at 37% while that in revenue expenditure is only 1.2%. According to estimates by the Reserve Bank of India (2019, 2020), the multiplier associated with central government capital expenditure is 2.45, while that for revenue expenditure is 0.45. Investment expenditure by central public sector undertakings (PSUs) is budgeted to fall by 0.2% points.

However, State capital expenditures may increase as a result of central grants to the States meant for capital asset creation amounting to 1.2% of GDP, augmentation of States' fiscal deficit to GDP ratio to 3.5%, and the facility of 50 years of interest-free loans for creating capital assets in 2023-24.

It is difficult to ascertain the extent to which States might utilise these facilities. Growth may also be stimulated indirectly due to an increase in private disposable incomes following tax slab adjustments applicable to the new income tax regime. Real growth in 2023-24 may be a little above 6%.

> A stronger fiscal consolidation road map is needed over the medium term

External conditions as reason

According to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, as amended in 2018, the Centre is mandated to take appropriate steps to limit its fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP by March 31, 2021 although this is an operational target. The mandated target pertains to the Centre's debt-GDP ratio which is to be brought down to 40%. If there is a deviation from the fiscal deficit-GDP ratio of 3%, the Centre is required to state the reasons. In the medium-term fiscal policy cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement (MTFP), the Centre has attributed the deviation of the budgeted 5.9% fiscal deficit-GDP ratio to external economic conditions. For this reason, the Centre has also not provided the medium-term GDP growth forecasts.

Furthermore, the Centre has also not indicated the year by which it envisages reaching a fiscal deficit level of 3% of GDP. Instead, it has indicated that a level of 4.5% of GDP would be reached by 2025-26, calling for a steeper adjustment of 0.7% points each in the next two years. It might require another two to three years for reaching a level of 3%. However, even by this time, the mandated debt-GDP ratio of 40% would not be reached. The Centre's debt-GDP level net of liabilities on account of investment in special securities of states under the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), is budgeted to increase from 55.7% in 2022-23 (RE) to 56.1% in 2023-24 (BE). This increase is expected as the primary deficit to GDP ratio is indicated at 2.3% in 2023-24.

The MTFP statement does not indicate the year by which the government aims to reach the mandated debt-GDP target of 40%. One implication of the high level of Centre's debt-GDP ratio is for interest payments relative to revenue receipts, which is budgeted at 41% in 2023-24. This reduces, significantly, the space for primary expenditure in the Centre's budget.

Private investment

For raising growth in the medium term, augmentation of private investment relative to GDP needs to be ensured. This requires that enough investible resources are left for the private sector after the public sector's pre-emptive claim on these resources. At present, total investible resources, consisting of financial savings of the household sector amounting to about 8% of GDP and net foreign capital inflows amounting to 2.5% of GDP, may be estimated at 10.5% of GDP. The central and State fiscal deficits considered together may amount to 9.4% of GDP in 2023-24. This implies that only 1.1% is available for the private sector and the non-government public sector.

Investment of the Centre's PSUs themselves amount to 1.1% of GDP in 2023-24, leaving little scope for State PSUs and the private sector. This is not amenable to creating an environment for interest rate reduction. In fact, trying to borrow beyond the available investible resources by the government can only lead to inflation. We know the dilemma faced by the government. Any further reduction in the fiscal deficit will cut expenditures which may not be appreciated. We need, however, a stronger fiscal consolidation road map over the medium term.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nature strikes

Tragedies do not seem to end. The world seems to have just emerged from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, only to have an event that has cast a pall of gloom — the massive earthquakes, attributed to the Anatolian fault system that have struck Turkey and Syria.

The trail of destruction, with thousands of buildings in ruins, brings alive the enormity of the disaster.

The faces of children who have been rescued make for moving scenes.

International sanctions should not come in the way of providing succour in this time of great calamity and desperate need. The international community should take the alleviation of untold misery engendered by the earthquakes and the post-earthquake reconstruction of Turkey and Syria as its responsibility in an affirmation and a demonstration of the spirit of common humanity.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

The visuals of buildings that have collapsed like the pack of cards are heart wrenching. The nightmare seems to have been made worse by the inclement weather. In the reconstruction process, studier building designs can be thought of.

Dr. D.V.G. Sankararao,
Nellimarla, Andhra Pradesh

Despite all the scientific advancements made by mankind it is unfortunate that there are no standard technologies to forecast earthquakes with a realistic degree of occurrence time, location, intensity and magnitude. The wrath of nature is indeed deeply devastating. In times of such distress, the entire international community must stand united and get into an overdrive mode.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram

The tragedy has shifted the focus of global attention away from a Russia-Ukraine-based geopolitical discourse to the gut-wrenching realities that follow a natural calamity.

India has done well in rushing aid to the affected region.

At the same time, it should examine its rescue and relief policy at home. With more than a quarter of its land falling under seismic risk zones, it should consider mandating "life safety" designs for buildings in high-risk zones, as in the developed world, and having a strict curb on mindless human activities in fragile areas.

Michael Jom,
Thiruvananthapuram

It is fortunate that India's not-very-cordial relations with Turkey have not come in the way of New Delhi sending relief and help to Turkey.

Similar actions should also be taken to help Pakistan which is facing a crisis of a different kind. This should be done despite our strained relations. Such acts will make India's G-20 presidentship sparkle even more.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

Judicial postings

Non-political and non-controversial postings should be a part of the basic structure of the judiciary, which should extend to retired judges too. To maintain the sanctity of the office, the executive should be kept at arm's length from the judiciary.

Manas Agarwal,
New Delhi

Vani Jairam

The *kuyil* has flown. A songstress like the great singer is a rarity. Her velvety voice will never be forgotten by her admirers.

"*Nathamenum Koilile*", "*Malligai en Mannan mayankum*" and "*Yezhu Swarangalukkul*" are some of her lilting compositions that will remain in our minds. She was simple in her outlook.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The figures in respect of Andhra Pradesh quoted in the Data Point article on shortfall of specialist doctors in rural areas (Opinion page, January 30, 2023) were wrong. The shortfall in percentage of functioning CHCs in Andhra Pradesh is 52, not 64. Shortfall of specialists in Andhra Pradesh is 53%, not 64%. Consequently, the position of the circle representing Andhra Pradesh in the chart should also change. It was a calculation error. However, this does not affect the overall conclusion of the story as the changes are minor.

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Neglecting the health sector has consequences

K. Sujatha Rao

is Former Union Health Secretary, Government of India

The stagnant allocations in the Budget for health, education and nutrition reminded me of the film *The Last Czars*. Emperor Nicholas asks his communist captors why he has been imprisoned despite loving Russia and being loyal to it. The captor replies, "You loved Russia, but not the people." In today's world of governance, are Budgets a reasonable way of assessing this quality in our leaders for those who elected them?

Budgets are boring documents if we look at them only in terms of financial allocations to sectors. Yet, they are eagerly awaited because they validate the true intent and vision of the government – who or what it "loves" more. And such a judgment is based on the extent to which the Budget helps in furthering the equitable access of all citizens to basic public goods.

Soon after World War II left the U.K. devastated, the National Health Service was launched as a means to revive society. Envisioning a welfare state, the social economist William Beveridge sought to address the "five giant evils: want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness." If India's vision is driven by such an articulation, then investments need to be prioritised first towards basic services such as nutrition, health, employment, education, environmental sanitation and hygiene, rather than airports, highways and speed trains.

Fulfilling commitments

It may be argued that the government has been fair in this year's Budget by providing free foodgrains to 80 crore poor people; developing 500 backward blocks; broadening access to housing, clean water, and toilets; providing employment through the rural employment guarantee scheme; and providing opportunities for skill development. But these can only have partial gains; they do not necessarily address the issue of widening inequality. Besides, for sustainable, long-term growth of the country, expanding universal access to high quality education, healthcare and nutrition (not just foodgrains but proteins and other supplementary foods that are currently unaffordable) is imperative. No country can go far if a significant proportion of its population is illiterate, unhealthy or malnourished. All the countries that are developed today invested well in education, health and nutrition. Studies in the U.S. show that after the Reagan era, innovation and scientific capability took a hit when public investment in education was reduced to push privatisation. Even Nicaragua, despite its economy being in shambles, invested in health and education. The tragedy is the failure of our political leadership, since Independence, in understanding the centrality of universal education and health to growth.

In view of the above, the Budget is disappointing. A study showed that 230 million Indians slid into poverty due to COVID-19. The ASER report shows the abysmal state of education – many Class 5 students are unable to read a Class 2 textbook. NFHS-5 data show that among children aged below five years, 35.5% were stunted and 32.1% were underweight. Yet, the allocations for education and nutrition are stagnant. The budget for midday meals reduced by 9%, not counting for inflation, even as data show a shift in enrolment from private to public schools with private schooling becoming unaffordable. Disease burden is rising with non-communicable diseases, mental health and geriatric care adding to the load of communicable diseases. India lacks adequate human resources, infrastructure and access to affordable diagnosis and treatment.

India needs an infusion of resources and a bold imagination to address the problems of the sector

Fault lines

COVID-19 sharply brought into focus three major fault lines: the lack of financial risk protection, which is why citizens incurred huge expenses, estimated to be more than ₹70,000 crore, even as their incomes fell; a broken down primary health system, particularly in the north, that resulted in a large number of avoidable deaths; and the absence of well-equipped and functioning district hospitals to cope with demand. India needs an infusion of resources and a bold imagination to address these.

Besides, it also showed us the chaotic state of the regulatory framework. Many laws have serious infirmities and embed conflicts of interest. Some need to be scrapped and some amended, for without sound governance, opening up health to market forces can be disruptive and hurt patients, particularly the poor. COVID-19 also underscored the need to invest in public health to build our disease surveillance system and strengthen resilience to such shocks.

Addressing all this is urgent because there is no guarantee that the worst is over. It is the responsibility of a government to firewall its citizens against any such eventuality by improving the healthcare system and reducing vulnerability. We need political leadership backed by adequate funding in order to rebuild our public health system, promote scientific research, and expand health security. Constructing 157 nursing schools and trying the impossible of "eliminating" a genetic disease is no answer to these serious structural problems.

Equity and justice are values that must guide a polity to build a nation. Measuring policy and money allocation only in terms of political expediency is short-term and unsustainable. When such structures collapse, as they will, it is the poor and marginalised who will suffer disproportionately. But then disease is an equaliser – many rich people also died during COVID-19 for want of access to a hospital bed or oxygen. The price we paid then, and the lessons learned, need to be remembered. Neglecting the health sector and denying it of critical investments has consequences.

A rising Raje and a divided BJP

With Vasundhara Raje back in the spotlight, the rift in the party has widened

STATE OF PLAY

Mohammed Iqbal
mohammed.iqbal@thehindu.co.in

Over the last few weeks, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has been making serious attempts to mobilise voters in the Mewar and Vagad regions of southern Rajasthan. Her apparent pitch for the post of Chief Minister in front of a reluctant high command has led to churning within the BJP, the principal Opposition party in the State.

Ms. Raje's political clout in the BJP has declined since the 2018 elections in Rajasthan, which the party lost. The rift between Ms. Raje and Home Minister Amit Shah became apparent back then when she opposed his proposal of appointing Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as the State unit chief. After months of suspense, the party appointed Madan Lal Saini to the post. This seemed to calm tensions for sometime. However, in 2019, after Mr. Saini's death, the party high command appointed Satish Poonia, one of Ms. Raje's main detractors, as the new chief. Ms. Raje stopped attending many of the party meetings and her face disappeared from several BJP hoardings.

But the former Chief Minister's meeting with senior BJP leaders, including the Prime Minister, in Delhi last year; her presence at oath-taking ceremonies of some BJP Chief Ministers; and her birthday celebrations, which were a show of strength suggest that she is back in the spotlight. A few days ago, shortly after the BJP's Jan Aakrosh Yatra, launched to highlight the Congress's "failures," drew a lukewarm response from the public, Ms. Raje embarked on a journey to the tribal-dominated regions. Her visit to Dungarpur district's famous Beneshwar Dham during the annual fair of the tribal people, was replete with political messages.

Ms. Raje, who received a warm welcome in Udaipur and Dungarpur, crossed the river bridge on foot to reach the temple. When she paid obeisance at the temple and bought colourful glass bangles at the fair, tribal people gathered at multiple locations to catch a glimpse of her.

Udaipur MP Arjun Lal Meena, Banswara MP Kanak Mal Katara, several MLAs of the region and office-bearers of the BJP's district units welcomed Ms. Raje and accompanied her during her visit. The former Chief Minister interacted with local BJP leaders and workers and attempted to gauge the acceptability of her leadership in the party. While trying her hand at bow and arrow, Ms. Raje said that there would soon be a change of government and promised that incomplete development work would be completed.

In Sagwara town, Ms. Raje met party workers and office-bearers from each of the Assembly constituencies of Dungarpur, Banswara and Udaipur districts separately and told them that the people, troubled by the "misrule of the Congress," had made up their mind that they wanted a change of government this year. She rode a scooter belonging to a schoolgirl, who had received it in a special scheme of the previous BJP government.

Just before her three-day tour to southern Rajasthan, Ms. Raje also created a flutter by posting on her Twitter and Facebook handles a four-month-old video in which she was heard saying that the public's affection meant everything to her. The video from the BJP working committee meeting held in Hyderabad triggered speculation in political circles about her apparent message to the BJP high command.

While Ms. Raje seems to be trying to project herself as the BJP's face in Rajasthan, the road ahead for her will be far from smooth. There are at least two leaders - BJP State president Poonia and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - who seem to be vying for the top post should the BJP return to power in the State. Mr. Poonia has especially been unhappy as Ms. Raje's pictures have reappeared on BJP's hoardings.

Ms. Raje's supporters say that she obtained a clear majority in the 2003 elections and commanded a massive victory in the 2013 elections, whereas now, the series of losses in Assembly byelections, including in two of the BJP's own seats, indicate the failure of the State leadership. On the other hand, Mr. Poonia's supporters claim that he has mobilised the cadre.

The widening rift between the two camps is a challenge to the BJP. While the high command has made attempts to improve relations between the Raje and Poonia factions, they have been unsuccessful. With the State going to the polls this December, the BJP will need to put its house in order and demonstrate a united face.

The 30 crore missing voters are mostly young, urban, or migrants

With a voter turnout of 67.1% in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, India ranked 74th among the 162 countries analysed

DATA POINT

Agencies

India has witnessed a more than four-fold increase in the number of electors since 1962 to over 94.5 crore this year, but almost one-third of them stayed away from exercising their franchise in the last Lok Sabha polls. This has prompted the Election Commission of India (ECI) to walk the extra mile to bring them to the polling booths. Amid talks of taking the voter turnout to 75%, the ECI has recognised that people from urban areas, young voters, and migrants formed a big part of the 30 crore missing voters in the last Lok Sabha election. In order to woo these demographics, the ECI has taken a multi-pronged approach ranging from conducting awareness campaigns to introducing remote voting systems.

In November 2022, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar participated in an awareness rally in Pune and requested voters in urban areas as well as young electors to increase their participation in the election process. During the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections in December, the ECI rued the fact that the "voter turnout figure was dampened by urban apathy." Quoting figures, the ECI stated that "major cities in Gujarat have recorded not only a decline in voting percentage as compared to the 2017 elections, but have also voted much less than the State average in 2022."

To address the issue of migrants missing from the election process, the ECI announced in December that it has developed a prototype for a Multi-Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machine which would enable remote voting by migrant voters. Remote Electronic Voting Machines can handle multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth.

Chart 1 shows the number of electors and the voter turnout in the past 15 Lok Sabha elections. From 21.63 crore electors in 1962, the count increased to 91.05 crore in 2019. The total number of voters on January 1 this year was 94,50,25,694 (94.5 crore). The voter turnout has increased significantly in recent years and crossed the 65% mark in the last two general elections. But 35% still remain absent from the process.

As the ECI said, urban apathy is a major factor. **Table 2** lists the three parliamentary constituencies from select States which recorded the lowest voter turnout in the 2019 general elections. Nearly all the constituencies listed are in the capital districts of the respective States or part of other urban centres. For instance, in Karnataka, the constituencies – Bangalore south, Bangalore central and Bangalore north – recorded the three lowest voter turnouts in the State in the last general election. All three seats are in the capital city. This pattern can be observed in the other States listed as well.

Chart 3 shows the number of electors registered for the most recent parliamentary/presidential elections in select countries. Only the top 10 countries are depicted. The ECI has a big task on hand given that India's number of registered voters is almost four times that of the U.S., the second country on the list. India's voter base exceeds the combined numbers of the U.S., Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, Pakistan and Japan.

India, with a voter turnout of 67.1% in the last Lok Sabha elections, ranked 74th among the 162 countries whose data were compared (**Chart 4**). Only the vote shares in the most recent elections conducted in these countries were considered. India's vote share lagged behind the turnouts recorded in Bangladesh (80%), Brazil (79.2%) and Sri Lanka (75%), but surpassed the turnouts in Russia (51%), Pakistan (50%) and Nepal (61%).

Getting inked

The tables and charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Chart 1
Chart shows the number of electors and the voter turnout in the past 15 Lok Sabha elections

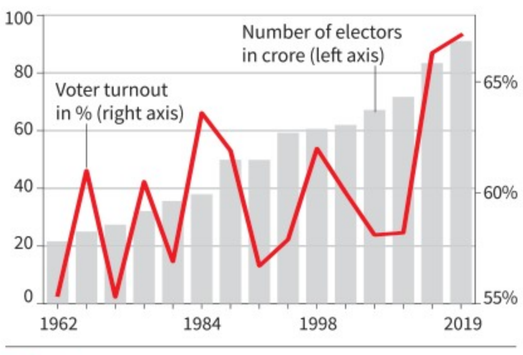


Chart 3
Chart shows the number of electors registered (in crore) for the most recent parliamentary/presidential elections in select countries

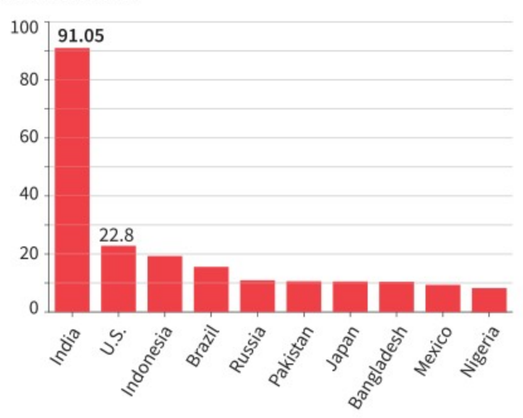
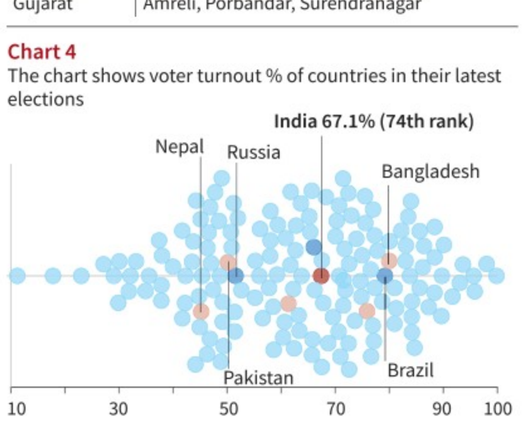


Table 2
The three parliamentary seats from select States which recorded the lowest voter turnout in the 2019 elections

State	Constituency
West Bengal	Kolkata Uttar, Kolkata Dakshin, Howrah
Uttar Pradesh	Phulpur, Kanpur, Allahabad
Telangana	Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Malkajgiri
Tamil Nadu	Chennai south, Chennai central, Sriperumbudur
Rajasthan	Karauli-Dholpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner
Odisha	Bhubaneswar, Aska, Berhampur
Maharashtra	Kalyan, Thane, Pune
M.P.	Bhind, Gwalior, Rewa
Karnataka	Bangalore south, Bangalore central, Bangalore north
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Mavelikkara
Haryana	Faridabad, Gurgaon, Karnal
A.P.	Visakhapatnam, Aruku, Srikakulam
Gujarat	Amreli, Porbandar, Surendranagar

Chart 4
The chart shows voter turnout % of countries in their latest elections



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 8, 1973

POWs issue: Criticism of India in U.S.

Washington, Feb. 7: The continued detention of Pakistani POWs by India is beginning to draw adverse criticism from an increasing number of people in this country. In the past fortnight alone four members of Congress and a number of articles, reports and editorials in influential newspapers have sought to draw attention to this issue. While some of the comments have been balanced and have pointed out that the Pakistan President, Mr. Bhutto's obstinacy in not recognising Bangladesh is partly responsible for the impasse on the prisoner issue, not all of them have been flattering to India. Republican Congressmen Derwinski recently used the issue as an excuse to refer to India's "treacherous foreign policy" and 'The Chicago Tribune,' which has never been friendly towards India, has called it a "hair splitter and self-appointed moral adviser who had flouted the rules of international conduct". Republican Senator Strom Thurmond and Congressman Sikes as well as 'The Washington Post' and 'The New York Times' have been a little more restrained in their language but they too have criticised India for using the POWs as a "lever to get Pakistan to recognise Bangladesh." What should concern India even more than all this is that even Senator Edward Kennedy, who has championed India's and Bangladesh's cause all along, has now been forced to speak out against the "games of diplomacy" which has created a logjam in the three South Asian nations' attempts to improve relations with one another. In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Kennedy did not single out India for criticism but he did express his concern over the needless suffering caused to thousands of people by the continued incarceration of Bengalees in Pakistan, Biharis in Bangladesh and Pakistanis in India.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 8, 1923

American tourists in Calcutta

Calcutta, Feb. 7: A large number of American tourists, ladies and gentlemen, have arrived in Calcutta. One hundred and twenty-five arrived last night by rail from Diamond Harbour while three hundred and twenty-four arrived to-day by two steamers. They will stay here for four days.

From Page One

SC not to take up pleas against elevating lawyer

However, after a wait of over half an hour, senior advocates Raju Ramachandran and Anand Grover, for petitioners Anna Mathew and senior advocate R. Vaigai, were asked to go to court seven, where Justice Khanna presides, for a hearing at 10.30 a.m.

Towards the end of the 25-minute hearing, the top court Bench said it cannot give a judicial direction to the Supreme Court Collegium to reconsider its January 17 recommendation, based on which the government notified the appointment of Ms. Gowri as an Additional High Court Judge on Monday.

Mr. Ramachandran submitted that the decision-making process had been "affected and even stymied by necessary information about her not being placed before the Collegium".

The Supreme Court declined to intervene only a day after the Chief Justice of India made a rare statement in open court that the Collegium was considering the "developments" raised in a letter addressed to it by a group of 21 Madras High Court lawyers on February 1.

He said the tweets of Ms. Gowri indicate a "mindset not in tune with the Constitution".

Rahul asks PM Modi to explain ties with Adani

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also urged the former Congress chief not to display two photographs, one that showed Mr. Modi with Mr. Adani inside a plane, and another showing Mr. Modi getting down from a plane that sported the Adani logo. Mr. Gandhi asked how much money the ruling BJP received from the conglomerate through electoral bonds over the past 20 years.

Citing examples of the Adani group signing business deals with countries such as Israel, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka among others, the Congress leader alleged that "India's foreign policy is Adani foreign policy". He argued that institutions such as the Harvard Business School should use Adani as a case study on "how to use government power to build individual business".

"Pradhan Mantri *ji*, How many times did Adani *ji* join you later on a visit? How many times Adani *ji* travelled to a country immediately after you visited the country? How many times Adani *ji* bagged a contract in a foreign country after your visit there?" asked Mr. Gandhi. He claimed that the relationship between Mr. Adani and Mr. Modi started when the latter was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. "Then the real magic starts, when the PM comes to Delhi. In 2014, he was in 609th spot on the list of richest people and climbed to the second spot," he said.

"I was asked by the people during the Bharat Jodo Yatra why LIC's money is being put in the Adani group. They also asked, Adani's shares which are volatile, why LIC's funds are being put in it. I want to say, how do the government and PM help Adani – thousands of crores of [money from] public sector banks is given to Adani," he said.

Senior BJP leaders including Ravi Shankar Prasad, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, his deputy Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Mr. Rijiju strongly objected to the remarks. "Wild allegations cannot be made. You have to give full documentary evidence," Mr. Rijiju said.

"Adani never made drones while Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) used to do it and other companies do it. PM goes to Israel and Adani gets the contract... They have four defence firms and had not done this work before. Small arms, sniper rifles, all are made by Adani," he said.

The Adani group has a 30% market share in the airports business and also controls 90% of Israel-India defence cooperation, Mr. Gandhi claimed.

The Congress leader also hit out at the PM for accusing the Opposition, during an event at HAL on Monday, of making false charges against the government regarding the Rafale deal. "Yesterday, the Prime Minister said at HAL that we hurled wrong allegations. But in reality, HAL's contract of 126 aircraft went to Anil Ambani, who then went bankrupt," he said.

Quake deaths pass 6,000 in Turkey, Syria

More than 8,000 people have been pulled from the debris in Turkey alone, and some 3,80,000 have taken refuge in government shelters or hotels, said Turkish Vice-President Fuat Oktay. They huddled in shopping malls, stadiums, mosques and community centres, while others spent the night outside in blankets, gathering around fires.

Many took to social media to plead for assistance for loved ones believed to be trapped under the rubble – and Turkey's state-run *Anadolu Agency* quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying all calls were being "collected meticulously" and the information relayed to search teams.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 13 million of the country's 85 million were affected in some way – and declared a state of emergency in 10 provinces in order to manage the response.

The affected area in Syria is divided between government-controlled territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, which is surrounded by Russian-backed government forces.

The rebel-held enclave is packed with some 4 million people displaced from other parts of the country by the war. Many live in buildings that were damaged by military bombardments.

Help at hand: India dispatching an Army field hospital from the Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad to Turkey on Tuesday. ANI

Personnel, aid from India reach Turkey, more relief *en route*

Dinakar Peri
Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday dispatched four Indian Air Force (IAF) C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft with relief material, a 30-bed field hospital and rescue and medical personnel to Turkey as part of Humanitarian And Disaster Relief efforts to assist the earthquake-hit region. The first C-17 reached during the day.

To Syria, India is dispatching medical supplies in an IAF C-130 transport aircraft to Damascus, though its departure was delayed through the day.

"Fourth IAF C-17 aircraft leaves for Turkey with the remaining component of the field hospital. This includes 54 members of the Indian Army medical team as well as medical and other equipment to establish the facility," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Twitter. A 45-member Army medical team with components of the field hospital left earlier in another aircraft.

The first two C-17s left with self-contained NDRF teams, including dog squads, Search and Rescue Equipment (SAR) equipment, extrication tools and vehicles, the MEA said. "India continues to support the people of Turkey in their hour of need," Mr. Bagchi said in a tweet.

"The first Indian C-17 with more than 50 NDRF SAR personnel, specially trained dog squads, drilling machines, relief material, medicines and other necessary utilities and equipment reaches Adana, Turkey," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in the morning on Twitter.

The Home Ministry said that in all, two teams consisting of 101 NDRF members had been sent.

"It is important to share that in our first helping hand flight, five of the 51 SAR team members are women!" said Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the MEA.

Turkey, Syria thank India for rescue teams, aid

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's decision to send rescue teams to help with earthquake relief is timely and a sign of "true friendship", said envoys from Turkey and Syria.

"The first 24-48 hours after a disaster of these proportions are the most critical, as there is hope that we can search and rescue the maximum number of those trapped in the rubble," Turkish Ambassador Firat Sunel told *The Hindu*. "India's offer of help at this critical time, sending nearly 100 experts and dog squads is very timely and very welcome," he added. Mr. Sunel said that New Delhi has promised to continue support.

"The crisis management team in Delhi reached out in the first few hours of the quake. When we are in need India has sent help immediately. When we thought we could help India, we sent aid. This is the sign of a real friendship," Mr. Sunel said.

Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan called on Syrian Ambassador Bassam al-Khatib to convey India's support and commitment to help. "India is sending emergency drugs and medical equipment immediately," he said.

"Whenever Syria needed something, India responded soon," Mr. al-Khatib said, describing India's support as a sign of South-South solidarity.

India, Russia continue discussion to evolve a payment mechanism

The countries deliberate on payments in third currencies and sourcing from India as potential solutions to disruptions due to Western sanctions

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

With bilateral payments still not streamlined against the backdrop of Western sanctions, especially for defence deals, India and Russia are set to hold bilateral financial meetings under the framework of the Inter-Governmental Commission in the second half of February as part of ongoing efforts to iron out a mechanism, officials aware of the development said.

"We have agreed on a mechanism and we are fine-tuning it, continuous discussions are on. Enhancing bilateral trade and sourcing from India is one of the discussions, as also payments in third currencies," an official source said.

Another major issue is transportation, with the challenge of finding cargo carriers – and their insurance – outside the purview of sanctions. Defence sources have expressed concerns regarding this since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Insurance and reinsurance are under discussion, as well as efforts to avoid cargo ships under sanctions, the source said. On this, diplomatic sources stated that, increasingly, most of the shipping being used is Russian.

New avenues: Denis Alipov speaking at a forum on India-Russia strategic partnership, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

'Banks too cautious'

Speaking at a seminar on Monday, Russian envoy in India Denis Alipov said that vostro accounts have been opened, the mechanism of rupee-rouble trade has been established, and it is now a matter for the banks to use it.

"Many Indian banks are overcautious. Using this mechanism would not invite any secondary restrictions from the U.S. if that is the fear. But still, banks want to be on the safe side," Mr. Alipov said, adding that it would take some time for the knowledge that it is not detrimental for Indian banks to sink in, after which a positive expansion of this mechanism would be seen.

Budget documents presented last week show that the Indian Air Force has returned close to ₹2,370 crore from the Budget Estimates to the Revised Estimates for 2022-23. Official sources said that this was meant for payments to Russia as part of committed liabilities, which could not be completed. Payments for several other defence deals are held up as well, official sources said.

With Russia being shut out of the global SWIFT system for money transfers, India and Russia have agreed to conduct payments through the rupee-rouble arrangement. However, this has led to an accumulation of Indian rupees in Russian banks, given the large volume of payments. This is where both sides are discussing ways to enhance Russian sourcing from India.

'Existing limit to fix OBC non-creamy layer enough'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The existing income limit for determining the non-creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBC) "is considered sufficient" and hence there is no proposal currently under the Union government's consideration to revise the said income limit, the Social Justice Ministry said in Parliament on Tuesday.

Currently, an annual income of both parents of ₹8 lakh or more excludes OBCs from availing themselves of reservation, putting them in the creamy layer category, leaving benefits only for those earning less than that.

This comes despite repeated demands and recommendations for increasing this income limit so that it may cover more of those who deserve to be included in the quota system.

Panel on SC status to Dalit converts will get all facilities: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

"The government is fully committed to providing all the facilities to enable the Commission to function effectively," Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday when asked about the functioning of the Commission of Inquiry to examine according Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians and Muslims.

The Minister was responding to a question from DMK MP A. Raja, who had asked whether it was true that the commission, formed in October 2022, was still functioning without an office space, secretarial staff, or a full-fledged budget.

The MP's question came after *The Hindu* on January 14 reported that the commission was yet to get official email IDs for correspondence, a permanent office space, requisite secretarial staff, and a full-fledged budget.

Virendra Kumar

In his reply, Mr. Kumar said that the commission had been given ₹3.05 crore for the next fiscal year.

The Minister confirmed that the commission was functioning in a "temporary office space", and insisted that it had provided the panel with "all necessary secretarial assistance and other facilities".

The commission has been given a total of two years to submit a report.

No proposal for quota for transgender people: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There is no proposal to bring in reservations for transgender persons in education or employment, Minister of State for Social Justice A. Narayanaswamy said in response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Mr. Narayanaswamy said the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had no information on the number of transgender people employed in the government and the private sector, adding that so far, just 10,635 people had registered on the National Portal for Transgender Persons.

He further said the law already prohibited discrimination against trans people and that there was no proposal to introduce reservation in jobs and education for transgender people.

Some people will have to go out, SC says in Haldwani encroachment case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said there may be "gross encroachers" on railway land at Haldwani in Nainital and "some people will have to go out".

"Problem here is there may be people who may be gross encroachers, some people with a semblance of titles, people living on the railway line... I have seen the pictures. Some people will have to go out," a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul addressed counsel for petitioners, advocates Prashant Bhushan and Vipin Nair.

The court was hearing petitions challenging an order passed by the Uttarakhand High Court to evict poor families whose tenements spread over 29 acres of land said to belong to the Indian Railways at Haldwani.

The government has sought eight weeks' time to chalk out a "workable solution" to the problem.

Mr. Bhushan, who appears for the affected petitioner-residents of Banbhulpura and Mohalla Nai Basti, said he has filed an affidavit giving the details of land titles owned by his clients.

'Artificially created'

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, also for petitioner families, submitted that the issue was an "artificially created human problem".

On January 5, the top court stayed an Uttarakhand High Court order of December to evict "unauthorized occupants" from the railway land within a week. The High Court had directed the railway authorities and the district administration to even use paramilitary forces to remove the occupants from the land.

Thousands of residents of Banbhulpura had protested the removal of the encroachments, saying it would render them homeless and jeopardize the future of their school-going children.

INBRIEF

SC dismisses Rana Ayyub's plea against U.P. court order

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a writ petition filed by journalist Rana Ayyub challenging a summons order issued to her by a Special Court in Uttar Pradesh on a complaint filed by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. A Bench refrained from arriving at any conclusions on the territorial jurisdiction of the Ghaziabad court, saying the money was allegedly collected by her through virtual crowd-funding and there was a "serious factual dispute about the place/places of commission of the offence". The case is linked to campaigns she allegedly ran from April 2020 to September 2021 on an online crowdfunding platform – 'Ketto'.

AgustaWestland scam: SC denies bail to Christian Michel

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to release Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper scam, on bail on the ground that he has already spent over four years in prison as an undertrial. However, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud gave Mr. Michel, liberty to seek regular bail before the trial court. The court said he had already spent as an undertrial more than half the maximum prison term he would have undergone as a convict had he been found guilty.

APPEAL

Udesh is 2 years suffering from T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs. 8,00,000/-** to undergo Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Opposition targets govt. over Hindenburg report

Treasury Benches respond by questioning Adani Group's interests in non-BJP-ruled States. DMK MP Kanimozhi asks why raising allegations against the Adani Group was akin to 'questioning India'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties on Tuesday took on the government in the Lok Sabha over the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group, questioning why the conglomerate was being shielded and no action had been taken against it. The Treasury Benches, in response, attacked the Opposition on issues ranging from land acquisition in Amethi to the Adani Group's interests in non-BJP-ruled States such as Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Kanimozhi asked why raising allegations against the Adani Group was akin to "questioning India".

"... Hindenburg Research has given reports on 15 other institutions in different countries. But no other country has said that the report was against the country. When we are talking about Adani, it becomes against the country," Ms. Kanimozhi said.

Taking to task: DMK MP Kanimozhi speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

Accusing the Modi government of shielding corporates, Ms. Kanimozhi said that at any mention of Adani, the ruling party vociferously protested.

"When this report speaks of money laundering... why the Enforcement Department is not initiating proceedings against Adani? Will you initiate proceedings only when Opposition party leaders are involved?" Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said. His party colleague Mahua Moitra asked the government to order a quick and thorough probe.

The Bahujan Samaj Party's Danish Ali accused the government of working only for the benefit of corporates like the Adani Group. He alleged that the government was threatening the judiciary.

Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Dimple Yadav said the government was duty-bound to provide a clarification over the Hindenburg report.

BJP MP's counter

Countering the allegations made against the Modi government, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the Congress itself had favoured several industrial houses such as the Tatas, Birlas and Ambanis.

He said that the Adani Group had mines in Australia in 2010 when the Congress was in power at the Centre. "Mr. Adani also has good relations with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and [former Kerala Chief Minister] Oommen Chandy," Mr. Dubey said.

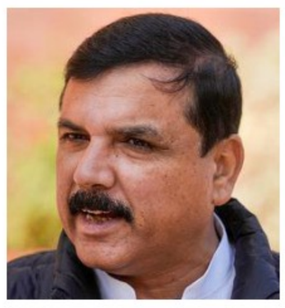
Parliament logjam ends, but AAP, BRS persist with call for debate on Adani issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ending the four-day logjam in Parliament, the Opposition parties – barring the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) – decided to participate in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting, even in the absence of a focused debate on the Hindenburg revelations about the Adani group and its impact on the LIC and the SBI.

At a meeting held on Tuesday morning at the Parliament office of Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Sanjay Singh (AAP), said his party would persist with the demand for a structured debate on the Adani issue and would not participate in usual parliamentary business.

BRS leaders were not present at the meeting. Speaking to presspersons later, BRS member and senior leader K. Keshav Rao said, "We have our differences on how the Parliament should work, but this should not be seen as serious division in the Opposition. We are all united in our demand on seeking a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, but we strongly feel that there should be focused debate on the Adani issue and the government should come clean. For the same reason, we boycotted the President's Address too."



Sanjay Singh

Soon after the meeting, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Most Opposition parties have decided to participate in parliamentary proceedings from today and continue to raise their demand for a JPC into the PM-linked Adani Maha Mega Scam."

Though the Opposition expressed its willingness to participate in parliamentary proceedings, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha failed to function in the first half of the day. The Rajya Sabha functioned for a total of 13 minutes in the first half of the day.

For the fourth day in a row, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected the notices moved by 13 Opposition members under Rule 267, seeking a debate on the Adani issue. There was only a verbal protest from the Opposition members at his decision. "Let me tell the honourable members, for the last three sittings, we had, at our disposal, 17 hours and 30 minutes. We have transacted business only for 35 minutes, 3.3%. It is time for us to reflect," Mr. Dhankhar said.

Turkey, Syria earthquakes remind PM of Bhuj tragedy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck an emotional note on Tuesday while expressing his condolences over the earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria on Monday, noting that it brought back memories of the deadly earthquake in Bhuj in 2001, when he took over as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Addressing a meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Party, Mr. Modi said he could relate to what Turkey was going through. He also spoke about the challenges faced during the rescue operations. He said humanitarian assistance was being provided by the Government of India to the disaster-hit country.

More than 20,000 people were killed and over 1.5 lakh people injured in the massive earthquake that jolted Bhuj in Gujarat's Kutch district in 2001.

'No complacency'

Mr. Modi also cautioned BJP MPs against complacency after the presentation of the Union Budget and told them to reach out to people.

"Even if the BJP has been able to get a majority in 2014 and 2019 and public at large is happy with the efforts of the party, there is no scope for any complacency, and one must keep ear to the ground," Mr. Modi said.

He said the Budget had something for every stratum of society.

"It is a huge responsibility on behalf of the MPs to talk about the Budget to their constituency and tell people what is in the Budget for them and how this Budget comes in at a time in the world is going through a major economic crisis," Mr. Modi said, according to sources present at the meeting.

Hindenburg report has economic, moral impact on country: Opposition in RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Raising the Hindenburg report's allegations against the Adani Group in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition used the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President to seek a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the growth of the group over the past eight years since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister. Speakers from the Treasury Benches spoke mainly about the works of the government in various spheres.

Spearheading the Opposition's attack, senior Congress MP Digvijaya Singh said that the *Amrit Kaal* mentioned in the President's speech was just for 21 people in the country whose personal wealth was equal to the collective wealth of 70 crore poor people. "There is a 121% increase in the wealth of these people during the pandemic," he said, adding that the Adani group was the biggest beneficiary from this regime.

Digvijaya Singh

Mr. Singh said Parliament should be allowed to discuss the content of the Hindenburg report, adding that the Centre should agree to a JPC on the "scam".

Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien said that the Centre consistently weakened institutions and used investigating agencies against Opposition leaders. "Of the 5,422 money-laundering cases registered, 98% have been done in the last nine years," Mr. O'Brien said. Criticising SEBI's inaction on the Adani issue, he said that the regulator should have played the role of a watchdog.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader Tiruchi Siva said a JPC was a process of democracy which should be used to probe the Hindenburg report which had "impacted India morally and economically".

Earlier, while moving the motion, BJP member K. Laxman listed several schemes of the Centre, saying that all sections of the people had benefited from them. "Modi means peace, prosperity and development. Modi*ji* has worked towards creating a mass movement in the direction of national unity and integrity," he added.

LWE-related violence down by 76% in 2022 from cases in 2010, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that violence related to Left-wing Extremism (LWE) had come down by 76% in 2022 as compared to 2010, owing to the Centre's three-pronged strategy – a resolute approach to curb extremist violence, better coordination with the affected States and development through public participation.

Mr. Shah, while chairing the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on LWE, said that for the first time in four decades, the number of deaths of civilians and security forces was under 100 last year.

The Home Minister said the number of civilian and security personnel killed in LWE incidents declined to 98 in 2022 from 1,005 in 2010. The number of districts affected dropped from 90 to 45. Sharing details of the measures taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), he said since 2019, the armed forces had established 175 new camps to plug the security vacuum in the LWE-infested zones.

Mr. Shah said that as a result of the efforts, success had been achieved against the LWE outfits in difficult areas such as Buddha Pahad (Jharkhand) and Chakarbandha (Bihar).

The Border Security Force's air wing has been strengthened with the induction of new pilots and engineers and the Home Ministry has taken initiatives to choke the funding to banned outfits, Mr. Shah said. Stating that the Centre had made efforts to improve coordination with the governments in the affected States without any party or ideology-related bias, the Minister said funds were provided to the State police forces for modernisation and assistance related to construction of fortified police stations.

Construction of 17,462 km of roadways had been sanctioned to improve road connectivity, of which work on about 11,811 km had been completed.

BJP member accused of glorifying Sati in Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday had to be briefly adjourned during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament, because of protests by the Opposition who alleged that a BJP member had glorified Sati in his speech.

The BJP member from Rajasthan, C.P. Joshi, however, clarified that he did not support the banned practice, and perhaps due to an error in translation from Hindi, his reference to "*satitva*" (chastity) had got mixed up with Sati. He said his remarks had been on the tradition of 'Jauhar'.

Mr. Joshi had initiated the debate on the Motion of Thanks and had referred to Padmavati, the queen of Mewar, who is believed to have immolated herself when Allaudin Khilji invaded the Chittor fort.

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
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Ph: 0484-2846700
E-TENDER
Engagement of Detail Design Consultant (DDC) for power supply & distribution system, 750 V DC third rail traction electrification and scada system for Kochi Metro phase-II project.
Tender ID : 2023_KMRL_554066_1
Last date of submission : 04.03.2023 @ 03:00 PM
Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX, KARNATAKA AND GOA REGION, BENGALURU
Central Revenue Building, No. 1, Queens Road, Bengaluru – 560001.
RECRUITMENT OF MERITORIOUS SPORTS PERSONS IN THE CADRE OF INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX, TAX ASSISTANT AND MULTI TASKING STAFF – 2022-23
Applications are invited from meritorious sports persons who have represented the Country/State/Union Territory/University/School in the International/National/Inter-University competitions for appointment to the post of **Inspector of Income Tax, Tax Assistant and Multi-Tasking Staff.** The Notification dated 06.02.2023 in this regard is available at **https://www.incometaxbengaluru.org/.** The Notification consists of the details of the Sports disciplines earmarked for recruitment, educational qualifications and other eligibility conditions. The application form is available in the Notification dated 06.02.2023. The duly filled application form shall be signed and forwarded to the Commissioner of Income Tax (Admin & TPS), at the below-mentioned address by speed post or registered post on or before **24.03.2023.**
Sd/-
Commissioner of Income Tax (Admin & TPS)
O/o. Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax,
Karnataka and Goa Region, Central Revenue Building,
No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560001

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TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (a-IDEA)
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a-IDEA, Technology Business Incubator of ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad, is looking for **Project Executive (1 Post),** on contractual basis. The details of Job description can be obtained from our website **https://aidea.naarm.org.in/careers.php or https://naarm.org.in/announcements/careers/**
Chief Executive Officer

Indian Institute of Information Technology
Sri City, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
(An Institute of National Importance under an Act of Parliament)
Advertisement
IIIT Sri City, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh invites tender for **"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Faculty cabins** in Academic Block 2nd floor, including Electrical and ELV works as per the specifications at IIIT Sri City (NIT No.IIITS/NIT/Faculty Cabins/2022/026, dt.19.12.2022)
For further details visit : www.iiits.ac.in
Sd/- Registrar

State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
RFP No.251 - Dated 07.02.2023
VT-IV-1/2023
RFP is invited from Eligible and Experienced Bidders for **Selection of Agency to Develop and support Integrated websites of Four Units/ Authorities associated with SCTE&VT.**
Bidders may view and study the RFP document containing the detailed terms & conditions from the website **https://sctevtodisha.nic.in/en/** to be available from **14/2/2023**. The bids are to be submitted as per procedure given in this document.
Sd/-
Vice-Chairman
KK-327:
OIPR-44002/11/0004/2223

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Constituency Lakes Division, Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No.: EE-(Bom.Con)/Lakes/TN-8/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the reigstered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	**Package-4** Installation of flood control arrangement / escape gates for lakes in Bommanahalli Zone.	800.00	12,00,000.00

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **13.02.2023. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **28.02.2023** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Prebid meeting: **20.02.2023** at Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Constituency Lakes Division, Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. **(4)** Opening of Technical bid tender document: **01.03.2023** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Bommanahalli Constituency Lakes Division, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (MDP-Lakes),
Room No.306, 3rd Floor, Annex Building-3,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.
No: EE(MDP-Lakes)/Tend-12/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Package-6: Installation of Sluice Gate (Flood Escape Gate) for Lakes in Mahadevapura Zone.	**900.00**	**13,50,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Bid Documents can be downloaded from **13.02.2023** onwards. (2) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **20.02.2023** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (MDP-Lakes), BBMP. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **28.02.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP on **01.03.2023** at **4:30** pm. (5) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
(Lakes-Mahadevapura)

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 50 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works :

Sl No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. In Crores)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Improvement of Service Road with black topping Left main Canal from RD 00 Km to 51.40 Km under LCD Division-I, Kusumkhunti.	OCCL-TSP/16/2022-23	Rs.24.87 Crores	Rs.24,87,000/-	09 (nine) Calendar months	From 08.02.2023, 03.30 PM to 22.02.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 08.02.2023, 03.30 PM to 22.02.2023, 5.30 PM.
02	Improvement of Service Road with black topping distributaries offtaking Left Main Canal from 00 Km to 32.00 Km under Left Canal Division No.1, Kusumkhunti.	OCCL-TSP/17/2022-23	Rs.16.60 Crores	Rs.16,60,000/-	09 (nine) Calendar months	From 08.02.2023, 03.30 PM to 22.02.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 08.02.2023, 03.30 PM to 22.02.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 23.02.2023, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-4745
OIPR-34120/11/0046/2223

INBRIEF

JEE-Main January result: 20 candidates score perfect 100

Twenty candidates have scored a perfect 100 in the January edition of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main for engineering admissions, the National Testing Agency announced on Tuesday. The candidates with the 100 NTA score are all males. The 20 toppers include 14 from the general category, four from the OBC category and one each from general-EWS and SC categories. "The NTA scores of 50 candidates have been withheld as they are under scrutiny. The cases of these candidates are being placed before a committee separately," a senior official said. PTI

Bilkis Bano case: SC says new Bench will be formed soon

The Supreme Court on Tuesday assured Bilkis Bano, who has challenged the premature release of 11 convicts who gang-raped her and murdered her family members during the 2002 Godhra riots, that her plea against the remission would be heard soon after the constitution of a new Bench. A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala said that the new Bench would be formed at the earliest. Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M Trivedi had recused herself from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the remission of sentence. PTI

'Oil still needed while world transitions to clean energy systems'

'We can't unplug current system before we have built the new one,' says COP-28 president-designate, pushing for investment in decarbonisation

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

> We need to get more concessional finance to vulnerable communities around the world to lower risk, attract more private finance
>
> **SULTAN AL JABER**
> COP-28 president-designate

Despite the impressive growth of wind and solar power, renewable energy by itself will not be sufficient, particularly to transition industries that are entirely dependent on fossil fuel, according to Sultan Al Jaber, the president-designate of the next UN summit on climate change.

This year's Conference of Parties (COP-28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be hosted by the UAE, which holds one of the world's largest oil and gas reserves.

Mr. Jaber is the UAE's Minister for Industry and chief executive of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

Carbon footprint

Speaking at the ongoing India Energy Week in Bengaluru on Tuesday, he pushed for more investment in minimising the carbon footprint of hydrocarbons.

"Without a breakthrough in battery storage, we must invest heavily in carbon capture, nuclear power, and the hydrogen value chain. But spending on these fundamental enablers of decarbonisation is less than 5% of what is spent on renewables. This must change. And when it comes to change, this also applies to the oil and gas industry. The world still needs hydrocarbons and will need them to bridge from the current energy system to the new one. We cannot unplug the current energy system before we have built the new one," Mr. Al Jaber said.

He said that the world's energy transition must be inclusive and deliver a fair deal to the Global South, a term for developing countries that includes both India and the UAE.

"We need to get more concessional finance to vulnerable communities around the world to lower risk, attract more private finance and turn billions into trillions," Mr. Al Jaber said.

The COP-28 is slated to be held at Expo City Dubai between November 30 and December 12.

Different voices on factoring in allegations against Victoria Gowri

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Two different views emerge from within the Supreme Court on what the collegium considered before recommending advocate Victoria Gowri for appointment as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court in its resolution on January 17.

On February 6, when the petitioners, senior advocate R. Vaigai and Anna Mathew, made an "extraordinary" mentioning of their challenge to Ms. Gowri's appointment on the ground that she had made public utterances on social media amounting to "hate speech", Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud orally stated in open court that these "developments" were brought to the attention of the collegium headed by him after it had "formulated" its January 17 recommendation for her appointment as judge.

"There are certain developments which have taken place, in the sense that

Victoria Gowri

the collegium has taken cognisance of what is drawn or came to our notice after we formulated our recommendation on the basis of the proposal of the Chief Justice of the High Court," the CJI said.

However, on February 7, a Special Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai, responding to arguments that Ms. Gowri's utterances were "hate speech pure and simple", verbally observed that her comments date back to 2018 and there was no reason to "presume" that the collegium would not have known about them. "The fact of the matter is all these matters must have been placed before the collegium... It was not that the collegium was not aware. If there was anything, they would have reconsidered," Justice Khanna tried to allay apprehensions.

The cardinal question in the case was whether the collegium, before making the recommendation, was in the know about the "hate speech" remarks the petitioners allege Ms. Gowri had made on social media. The January 17 collegium recommendation merely lists Ms. Gowri and four other advocates for appointment as judges of the Madras High Court.

The collegium resolution does not mention receiving any material or objections from the government about her social media posts. But a separate collegium resolution on the same day, January 17, reiterating its recommendation to appoint advocate R. John Sathyan as a Madras High Court judge, discusses in detail the government's objections to his social media posts.

The next day, the collegium again records in detail the government's objections to the candidature of advocate Somasekhar Sundaresan.

Ram Temple Trust yet to decide if Shaligram stone from Nepal will be used to carve idol

Ishita Mishra
Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The trust has drawn up a schedule to allow darshan in the Ram Temple by December

The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, overseeing the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, is yet to take a call on whether or not the main deity of the temple will be carved out of the shaligram stone sent from Nepal.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Trust chairperson Nripendra Misra said that its members had to first decide how exactly the deity would look.

"There is already one idol of Ram Lalla there, but we have to have another deity, just behind the original idol. That idol of the deity has to be available for darshan from at least 25 feet away, so the decision is, it will be a standing Ram Lalla of four or five years of age," he said.

Four prototypes are being created – in dolomite, in marble with a blue tinge, using another stone from Odisha, and using the shaligram. "On January 29, it was decided that the sculptors will see all the four," he said.

The trust has drawn up a schedule to allow darshan in the temple by December.

"The ground floor with *garbh griha* (sanctum sanctorum) and *pranprathistha* (installation of deity) will be completed except for the iconography. The devotees, hopefully, will have darshan of their lord in the *garbh griha*, by that date," Mr. Misra said.

He said Union Home Minister Amit Shah's declaration that the Ram Temple would be ready to allow darshan on January 1, 2024 was drawn from the Trust's schedule.

As for the shaligram which has already arrived in India from Nepal, Mr. Misra says that as per Hindu mythology, "shaligram is considered a form of Vishnu" and whether or not the main deity is ultimately carved from that stone, it will be given a space where it can be worshipped.

A suggestion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also being incorporated for the idol of the main deity. According to belief, Lord Rama's birth on Ram Navami occurred at a time when the rays of the sun fell on his forehead, around noon. Mr. Misra said that the Trust has asked an institute of astronomy in Pune to work out a way in which this can be incorporated in the temple.

Off the beaten track, thieves make away with railway line in Madhubhani

BJP blames Nitish government for bizarre cases of theft in Bihar; earlier, an iron bridge, two mobile towers and a railway engine were creamed off by ingenious thieves in the State

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Nearly two kilometres of an abandoned railway track, estimated at crores of rupees, in Madhubani district of Bihar was found to have been stolen and sold to scrap dealers, allegedly with the connivance of a few Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. Two of the personnel have been suspended from service.

The track, connecting the Pandaul and Lohat Sugar Mill stations in Samastipur railway division, had been left abandoned for a long time following the closure of the mill.

According to Bum Bum Thakur, a villager, the thieves, posing as railway employees, had cut the track and sold it to scrap dealers.

Quiet move: The site where the abandoned railway track was stolen in Madhubani district in Bihar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once the villagers noticed that a part of the track was missing, they informed the local police and RPF officials. Following this, a team of the RPF from Darbhanga and Railway Vigilance officials started an investigation. Srinivas and Mukesh Kumar Singh of the RPF were suspended from service on the charge of "dereliction of duty".

"A departmental-level inquiry committee has been formed for investigation and the two RPF personnel were suspended for not informing the theft to the department on time," Ashok Agrawal, Divisional Railway Manager, Samastipur, said.

Raw sugar cane used to be carried from Jeynagar to Madhubani and from there to Pandaul and Lohat Sugar Mill by trains on the railway track, but once the sugar mill was closed, the railway track was abandoned.

In April 2022, a 60-foot-long abandoned iron bridge across the Sone river was stolen by thieves posing as State Irrigation Department employees from Amiyawar village in Rohtas district of Bihar. Later, two mobile towers were stolen from Patna's Subzibagh and Yarpur Rajputana area by thieves posing as telecom workers.

In November 2022, an entire diesel engine was stolen part by part from a railway yard at Barauni in Begusarai district.

Senior State BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha on Tuesday slammed the Nitish Kumar government for such bizarre cases of theft in Bihar. He said law and order in the State had collapsed.

Veterans back protective headgear for Sikhs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Commission of Minorities (NCM) held a meeting with Sikh leaders and retired defence personnel to discuss the issue of protective headgear for Sikh personnel of the Indian armed forces.

While former defence officers backed the proposal for safety gear, and NCM chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura too said the move will save precious lives, members of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) found the idea unacceptable.

According to an NCM statement on Tuesday, the retired officers unanimously maintained in the meeting that combat headgear "is an essential piece of equipment for soldiers in the line of their duty".

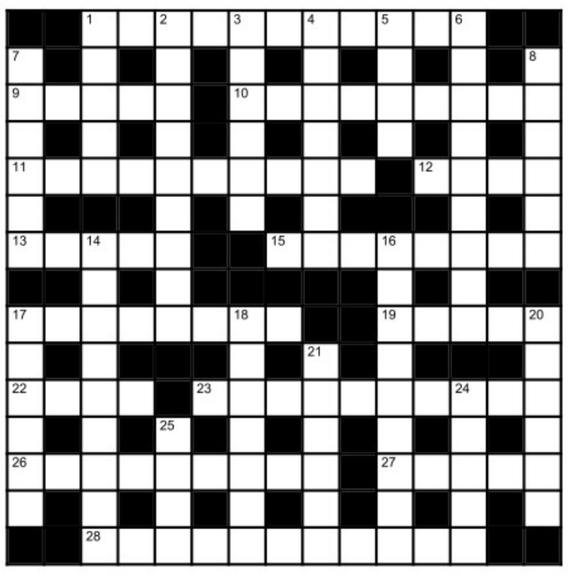
They said that wearing combat headgear will not interfere with the five *Kakars* [virtues].

TH CROSSWORD + 13783

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 State: "Join setter and break off" (11)
9 Fruit from Walkerville, Montana (5)
10 Queen dressing cat and tailless leopard (9)
11 Prepared tacos filled with Japanese noodle dish in US state capital (10)
12 Alabama has Sulphur Monoxide, too (4)
13 Knowledgeable American expatriate initially covers conflict (5)
15 Horribly vile art gallery's float in the air (8)
17 File for fauna (8)
19 Article on Territorial Army mentioned in Greek letter (5)
22 Amount owed from young lady coming out with team leader (4)
23 Flying erne senses the Pacific Ocean's quality of being peaceful (10)
26 Big Eddy's loop (9)
27 Boy following boxer has one defence in court (5)
28 Perhaps, anaconda's expression of surprise? (5,6)

Down

1 Commanding officer on microphone is funny (5)
2 Online rap played is matchless (9)
3 Outstrip old flame and cede wrongly (6)
4 Let rest complicated framework (7)
5 Yankee followed policeman and ape (4)
6 Confused a little about sex appeal? Arouse! (9)
7 Sadly, king starting to attack largest state in the US (6)
8 Criminal hiding money in canoe agitated (6)
14 Forming big band (around 51) and speaking extempore (2-7)
16 Silly Tehran kid is uninformed (2,3,4)
17 Having identification papers, amazes relicts (6)
18 Before noon, Goan musician is in empty fort in city in California (7)
20 Saint travels around university in capital of Texas (6)
21 Magician transmogrifying Mike into boy in erstwhile capital (6)
24 Dilapidated site contains unknown leaves (5)
25 Girl followed by general displays happiness (4)

SUDOKU

1		4						9
			8					
	3			6	7			
	5				9	8		4
8		7	4		1	5		2
4		1	2				3	
			1	8			9	
					6			
3						2		8

No.SS5703 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

I	C	■	L	A	■	C	A	I	M
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	■	A	M	N	E	S	I	A
O	■	S	■	D	■	H	■	S	■	T	■	L	■	S
N	O	I	S	O	M	E	■	S	C	H	N	A	P	S
I	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	E	■	R	■	N	■	A
C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T	■	A	S	D	I	C
■	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	C	■	E	■	R
D	E	S	P	A	I	R	■	E	M	I	G	R	E	E
E	■	T	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	■
F	A	R	S	I	■	P	R	O	V	E	N	C	A	L
L	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	C	■	■	■	A	■	A
O	T	A	L	G	I	A	■	T	A	C	T	I	O	N
W	■	M	■	W	■	T	■	R	■	H	■	M	■	D
E	L	E	V	A	T	E	■	O	K	I	N	A	W	A
R	■	R	■	X	■	D	■	I	■	C	■	N	■	U

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	6	7	9	4	5	8	3
4	7	5	8	3	1	2	6	9
3	8	9	6	5	2	1	4	7
8	9	7	3	6	5	4	2	1
5	1	3	4	2	7	8	9	6
6	4	2	9	1	8	3	7	5
2	5	8	1	7	9	6	3	4
9	3	4	5	8	6	7	1	2
7	6	1	2	4	3	9	5	8

FAITH

The eminence of Srirama

Of all living beings, more blessed are the human beings, because they can follow the path of dharma.

God has taken the incarnation in the form of a fish (*Matsya*), a tortoise (*Koorma*) and a wild boar (*Varaha*). Not satisfied with these avatars, God has incarnated as Rama to show Himself the dharmic paths as the glory of human beings is exhibited by undertaking righteous deeds. While Vedas cannot be learned by all, *Ramayana*, considered to be equal to Vedas as it imports all the essence of Vedas, can be recited by anyone.

The spontaneous overflow of the powerful feelings of the poet Valmiki can be seen in *Ramayana* and it is said that he had embedded his entire spiritual power in his work.

Rama has transcended the place, time and age. Whether in forest or in town, He was surrounded by various sages. Even at a young age he went to forest with Viswamithra without any resentment.

When Ravana fell unconscious during the war, Rama did not use that moment as an opportunity to kill Ravana. At that time he listened to 'Aaditya Hrudayam', sung by Sage Agasthya, Sri Hariji said in a discourse.

Usually a king would be interested to listen to the poets who shower praise through their poems. But Rama listened to Lava & Kucha and heard *Ramayana* as not a heap of praise on Him but as a blessing of the sage Valmiki.

Rama had upheld the rule that there is no personal life to a king but to live for the sake of his citizens. Rama considered Lave & Kucha more as His devotees than as children or citizens.

NAIROBI

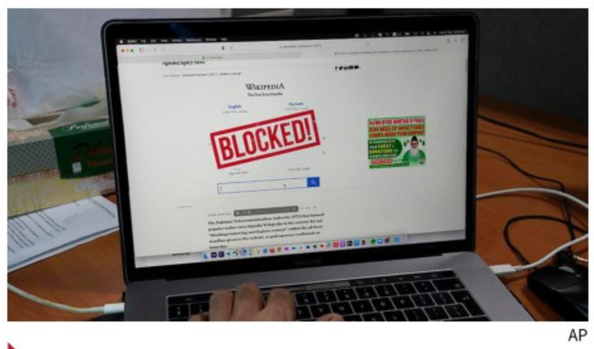
Sub-Saharan Africa is 'new epicentre' of extremism, says UN

AP

The new global epicentre of violent Islamic extremism is sub-Saharan Africa where people are increasingly joining because of economic factors, says a new report by the UN. An increase of 92% of new recruits to extremist groups are joining for better livelihoods, according to the UNDP report released on Tuesday. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan regulator lifts ban on Wikipedia after PM Sharif's order

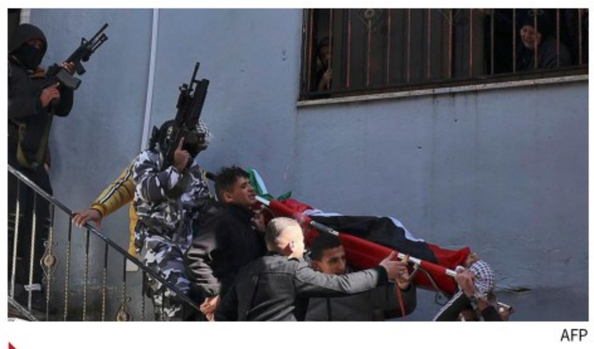


AP

Pakistan lifted its ban on Wikipedia services on Tuesday, after the country's media regulator blocked the site last week for not removing purportedly blasphemous content, claiming it hurts the sentiments of Muslims. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif ordered the unblocking late on Monday, according to a statement. AP

NABLUS

Israeli troops kill teen in West Bank raid: Palestinian Ministry

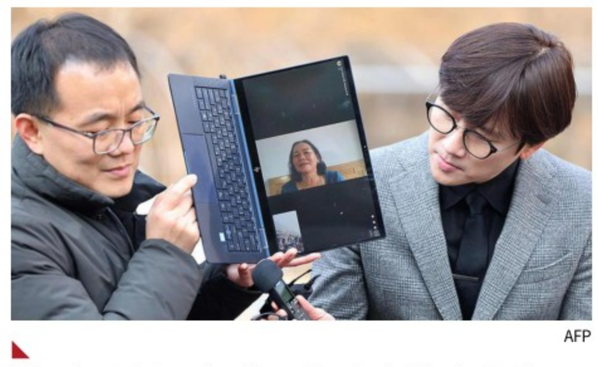


AFP

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, with the Israeli Army saying he had fired on soldiers. The Ministry said Hamza Amjad al-Ashqar, 17, was "killed by a bullet in the face fired by the Israeli soldiers during the aggression". AFP

SEOUL

South Korea responsible for Vietnam War massacre, says court



AFP

A Seoul court delivered a ruling on Tuesday holding the South Korean government accountable for a massacre committed by its soldiers in the Vietnam War, ordering it to pay compensation. In the 1960s and 1970s, South Korea sent troops to support America's doomed fight against the communist North Vietnamese. AFP

U.S. recovers 'spy balloon' debris, China protests

The unmanned airship didn't pose any threat to any person or to the national security of the U.S., they should have properly handled such incidents in a calm and professional manner, says Beijing

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

U.S. authorities have begun collecting remnants of the Chinese surveillance balloon that was shot down on Sunday, sparking a diplomatic row between Washington and Beijing.

The Chinese government on Tuesday reiterated its criticism of the shooting down of the balloon, calling it an "overreaction".

The Biden administration has asserted that downing the balloon is not a violation of international law. "The answer is unequivocally, 'No'," White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters on a Monday briefing call.

Asked if Beijing had requested the U.S. to return the debris, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said: "The airship does not belong to the U.S., it belongs to China." However, the U.S. has no plans to return the debris to Beijing. "I know no such intention or plans to return it," said Mr. Kirby.

An image of sailors of the U.S. Navy recovering the debris of Chinese balloon off the coast of South Carolina was released on Tuesday. AP

"The unmanned Chinese airship is of civilian nature," Ms. Mao said. "Its unintended entry into U.S. airspace is entirely unexpected and caused by force majeure. It didn't pose any threat to any person or to the national security of the US. The U.S. should have properly handled such incidents in a calm and professional manner not involving the use of force, yet they decided to do otherwise, which is a clear overreaction."

Analysing debris

The U.S. said the military had begun collecting and analysing remnants of the balloon. Air Force General Glen D. Van Herck of the U.S. Northern Command acknowledged that Chinese balloons had previously traversed U.S. airspace and there had been a "domain awareness gap".

"So those balloons, so every day as a NORAD commander it's my responsibility to detect threats to North America," he told reporters. "I will tell you that we did not detect those threats. And that's a domain awareness gap that we have to figure out...The intel community, after the fact, I believe has....made us aware of those balloons that were previously approaching North America or transited North America." The Biden administration "became aware" that on at least three occasions Chinese surveillance balloons transited U.S. airspace, according to Mr. Kirby. However, these were for "brief periods of time", he said. U.S. officials said Chinese balloons had also been previously tracked over South Asia and East Asia. Balloons similar in appearance had been spotted over the Andaman Islands in India last year and over Japan in 2020 and 2021. Gen. Van Herck explained why the Biden administration chose not to shoot down the balloon, first detected over Alaska on January 28, earlier, while it floated across the continental U.S., including sensitive military sites, for up to a week, and instead waited for it to drift east towards the Atlantic Ocean.

The latest balloon, he said, was "up to 200 feet tall" and carrying a large payload he would "categorise... as a jet airliner type of size, maybe a regional jet... weighed in excess of a couple thousand pounds." "From a safety standpoint," he said, "picture yourself with large debris weighing hundreds if not thousands of pounds falling out of the sky."

Sunak reshuffles Cabinet, creates new government departments

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Days after sacking the chair of the Conservative Party, Nadhim Zahawi, after a controversy around his tax affairs, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a partial reshuffle of his Cabinet, including a new Chair, Greg Hands, who has been the Minister of State for Trade.

With a general election on the horizon next year, Mr. Sunak is seeking to push forward on his agenda, creating new departments and reorganising old ones, while attempting to consolidate his leadership of the party.

Department for energy

The Department for Business, Energy, Innovation was split, with Grant Shapps, the Business Secretary now heading a Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Department will focus on the U.K.'s "long-term energy supply, bringing down bills and halving inflation", as per a Downing Street statement.

Rishi Sunak

"So seven years after the disastrous decision to abolish the Department of Energy, the Conservatives now admit they got it wrong, but a rearranging of deckchairs on the sinking Titanic of failed Conservative energy policy will not rescue the country," shadow climate secretary Ed Miliband said on Twitter.

Trade talks

As part of Tuesday's reshuffle, Kemi Badenoch, who was the international trade secretary, will have a larger portfolio as Business and Trade Secretary focusing on business abroad and in the U.K.

Ms. Badenoch has been leading the U.K. side in trade talks with India as the two countries work their way to concluding a bilateral trade deal.

A new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology will be headed my Michelle Donelan, who formerly headed the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. That department has now been downsized and will be headed by Lucy Frazer. Mr. Sunak had said last year during his campaign for No.10 Downing Street that he wanted to make the "science and technology superpower".

"The changes will ensure the right skills and teams are focussed on the Prime Minister's five promises: to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut waiting lists [for health services] and stop the boats [i.e., illegal migration across the English Channel]," 10 Downing Street said in a statement.

Turkey, Syria quake could affect up to 23 million: WHO

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Up to 23 million people could be affected by the massive earthquake that has killed thousands in Turkey and Syria, the World Health Organization warned on Tuesday, promising long-term assistance. "Event overview maps show that potentially 23 million people are exposed," the WHO's senior emergencies officer Adelheid Marschang said.

"Civilian infrastructure and potentially health infrastructure have been damaged across the affected region," she said.

Devastating: People gather at an earthquake-hit area of Jandaris, Syria as the search for victims continues. REUTERS

The WHO "considers that the main unmet needs may be in Syria in the immediate and mid-term," Ms. Marschang said.

She spoke as rescuers in Turkey and Syria braved freezing cold, aftershocks and collapsing buildings, as they dug for survivors buried by a string of earthquakes that killed over 5,000 people. "It is now a race against time," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

'Arms supplies are causing unpredictable escalation'

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Minister said on Tuesday that Western arms supplies to Ukraine were effectively dragging NATO into the conflict, warning this could lead to an "unpredictable" escalation.

"The U.S. and its allies have started supplying heavy offensive weapons. Such steps are dragging NATO countries into the conflict and could lead to an unpredictable level of escalation," said Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

Very difficult to write after stabbing: Rushdie

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

British author Salman Rushdie said he finds it "very difficult" to write after being stabbed last year, in an interview published on Monday ahead of the release of his new novel "*Victory City*." Mr. Rushdie, whose "epic tale" of a 14th-century woman who defies a patriarchal world to rule a city hit U.S. shelves on Tuesday, said the attack had scarred him mentally.

Salman Rushdie

"There is such a thing as PTSD you know," he told the *New Yorker* magazine in his first interview since the August 12 stabbing at a conference in New York. "I've found it very, very difficult to write. I sit down to write, and nothing happens. I write, but it's a combination of blankness and junk, stuff that I write and that I delete the next day. I'm not out of that forest yet," he added.

The award-winning novelist, who has lived in New York for 20 years, lost sight in one eye and the use of one hand, his agent said in October. Mr. Rushdie said "big injuries are healed" but he was not able to type very well because of a lack of feeling in some fingertips.

"I've been better. But, considering what happened, I'm not so bad," said the Indian-born author, describing himself as "lucky."

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology
Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru - 560 012.
No. KSCST/6.3.03/SHG/FPO/610 Date : 07-02-2023
Expression of Interest (EOI)
KSCST invites EOI from manufacturers or suppliers of food processing equipment, under the project **"Establishing SHG/FPO Enterprises to address malnutrition and provide rural livelihoods in Yadgir District, Karnataka".** Last date for submission of EOI is **20-02-2023.**
Please visit website link:**https://www.kscst.org.in/pdf/EoI_Yadgir_2023.pdf**
https://www.kscst.org.in or https://kscst.karnataka.gov.in for more details.
DIPR/CP/BCPL/4548/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Secretary, KSCST**

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
क्रमांक :- एफ2(I-T)राजुवास/सी/2022-23/618 दिनांक :- 04/02/2023
ई-निविदा सूचना (दर संविदा) सं. 01/2022-23
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राज.संवाद/सी/22/14064 वित्त नियंत्रक

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sl. No	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.				
1	Road ID 101 (Kochar Road)	2023_SCTLT_552275_1	Rs.63,70,535/-	10/02/2023
2	Road ID 41 (Kothuval to Sabhapathikovil street Road)	2023_SCTLT_550644_1	Rs.4,57,70,352/-	13/02/2023
3	Road ID 42 (KK Road)	2023_SCTLT_550795_1	Rs.2,59,55,590/-	13/02/2023
4	Road ID 43 (Marakkada Road)	2023_SCTLT_550815_1	Rs.2,29,11,634/-	13/02/2023
5	Road ID 44 (Pazhayasalai Road)	2023_SCTLT_550949_1	Rs.4,50,51,533/-	13/02/2023
6	Road ID 45 (Pumping Station Road)	2023_SCTLT_554531_1	Rs.4,97,44,352/-	10/02/2023
7	Road ID 27 (Thycaud Police Ground Road)	2023_SCTLT_551769_1	Rs.3,35,40,343/-	13/02/2023
8	Road ID 31A (Keezhe Thampanoor Road	2023_SCTLT_551304_1	Rs.3,20,36,478/-	13/02/2023
9	Road ID 177 (Tamil School Lane)	2023_SCTLT_551536_2	Rs.1,38,49,968/-	13/02/2023
10	Road ID 178 (Vivekananda Nagar Lane)	2023_SCTLT_551354_1	Rs.1,47,13,233/-	13/02/2023
11	Road ID 65,66,67,68 (Padma Nagar)	2023_SCTLT_551860_1	Rs.2,90,89,323/-	13/02/2023
12	Road ID 180 & 181 (Kamukuvilakom Road and Ankalamman Nagar Road)	2023_SCTLT_551497_1	Rs.3,15,84,659/-	13/02/2023
13	Road ID 90A (Dharmalayam Road)	2023_SCTLT_551327_1	Rs.2,51,54,527/-	13/02/2023
14	Road ID 72 & 73 (Thyvila Road and Shanthi Nagar Road)	2023_SCTLT_551312_1	Rs.3,51,84,212/-	13/02/2023
15	Road ID 182 (Kuriyathi Road)	2023_SCTLT_552524_2	Rs.1,33,51,123/-	15/02/2023
16	Road ID 185 (MRT Road)	2023_SCTLT_552621_2	Rs.1,66,77,152/-	15/02/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
(Sd/-)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd

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www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, asponiepmd@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Tender (E-TENDER) for Rate Contract for purchase of Android / IOS Tablet and Smart Phone
NIEPMD invites E- Tender through NIC e-procurement portal URL **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app"** in two bid system from reputed OEMs and their authorised suppliers & Distributers having proven track record in supplying Android / IOS tablets and Smart Phones to Central Govt/State Govt/ PSUs/Autonomous Bodies/Institutes / colleges / Universities/Special schools. The e-tender details & document can also be downloaded from the NIEPMD website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in.** and NIC E-procurement portal : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

Last date and Time for E-bidding	23.02.2023 (3.00 PM)
Date and Time of Opening of Tender	24.02.2023 (4.00 PM)

Sd/- Director

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, VISAKHAPATNAM
Telephone No. 9912223238, E-Mail id: ee2gvmc@gmail.com
Tender Notice No. 45/2022-23/SE(W-II)/EE-III/DB/Dt: 04-02-2023
01. Number of Works : **2 Nos** 02. Value of Works (ECV) : **Rs. 260.31 Lakhs**
Tender Notice

			Reverse Tendering System 2 Nos
01.	Down Loading Starting Date	:	06-02-2023 @ 08.00 P.M.
02.	Down Loading End Date	:	14-02-2023 @ 10.30 A.M.
03.	Last date of submission of Bid	:	14-02-2023 @ 10.45 A.M.
04.	Date of opening Tenders (PQ Stage)	:	14-02-2023 @ 11.00 A.M.
05.	Date of opening Tenders (Commercial Stage)	:	14-02-2023 @ 01.30 P.M.
06.	Date of evaluation tenders (TQ Stage)	:	15-02-2023 @ 11.00 A.M.

E-Tender Website: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/**
E-Mail ID for clarifications/ Communication: ee2gvmc@gmail.com
Note: Any addendum/ corrigendum/ bid clarifications/ time extension shall be issued on the website only. No separate press notification shall be issued. **FOR COMMISSIONER**

Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur (M.P.)
No. 186/F/Vety./2023 **Date 06/02/2023**
Notice for spot counseling (Offline) for admission in B.V.Sc. & A.H. 2022-23
The Spot counseling (Offline) for admission in B.V.Sc. & A.H. 2022-23 in remaining vacant seats will be held as under:

Degree Programme	Date	Qualifying examination	Venue	time
B.V.Sc. & A.H. (5½ years)	13.02.2023 and in case of vacant seats availability 14.02.2023	PV&FT-2022/ NEET-2022	Auditorium, Veterinary College, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur (M.P.)	11.00 a.m.

- For free seats M.P. domicile candidates only and for payment seats both M.P. domicile and other state candidates are eligible for admission.
- For details, rules and vacant seats visit University website: www.ndvsu.org

Registrar

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central-7, 3rd Floor, Annexe-3 Building, BBMP, Bengaluru-560 002.
No.EE/PC-7/TEND/12/2022-23/CALL-3 Date: 07-02-2023
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, Project Central-7, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Appx. Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	"Construction of New Urban Primary Health Centre's (UPHC's) and Repair / Upgradation to Existing Urban Primary Health Centre's (UPHC's) and Maternity/Referral Hospital Buildings in BBMP West Zone Limits"	1130.60	15.00 lakhs (Rs. one lakh through e-Procurement & remaining as specified in bid document)

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of queries is **13-02-2023 up to 5:30 p.m.** in e-portal only. **(2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **14-02-2023 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer Project-Central. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **5:30 p.m. on 17-02-2023. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **20-02-2023 at 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Project Central-7, BBMP.

INBRIEF

Aurobindo gets U.S. FDA nod for diclofenac topical solution

Aurobindo Pharma on Tuesday said step-down subsidiary Aurolife Pharma LLC has received the final approval from U.S. Food and Drug Administration to manufacture and market Diclofenac Sodium Topical Solution USP, 2% w/w, indicated for treatment of pain from osteoarthritis of the knee. This is the first ANDA (abbreviated new drug application) to be approved out of the Aurolife Unit-II, North Carolina. The product is expected to be unveiled in the first quarter of FY24, the company said.

Rane Engine Valve Q3 net loss shrinks on strong sales volume

Rane Engine Valve Ltd.'s (REVL) standalone net loss for the quarter ended December narrowed to ₹1.8 crore from ₹3 crore in the year earlier due to strong sales volume. Sales to India original equipment customers grew 26% supported by strong offtake from passenger vehicles and non-automotive customers. Export sales grew 31%. Demand from international customers remained strong. Sales to Indian after-market customers grew 10%, Rane said in a filing.

TTK Healthcare posted net profit of ₹12 crore in Q3

TTK Healthcare Ltd. standalone net profit for the quarter ended December remained almost unchanged at ₹12 crore. The healthcare provider had reported net profit of ₹12.17 crore during the year-earlier period, including a gain from discontinued operations. Revenue from operations rose to ₹183 crore from ₹159 crore while input cost increased by 23% to ₹48 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

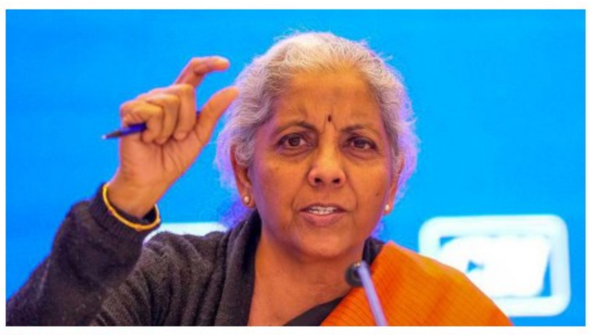
Sitharaman signals readiness to review 28% GST on cement

Govt. will cope with whatever fresh shocks that may emerge due to global developments, says FM; she cites manner in which Centre coped with sudden jump in fertilizer prices in 2021 as example

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre will consider reviewing the 28% Goods and Services Tax levied on cement, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, and assured that the government will cope with any fresh shocks that may emerge from global factors.

"Is there a buffer in the Budget? Buffer or no buffer, we have to face the situation as it arises," Ms. Sitharaman said at an interaction with industrialists.


Burden of cost: Despite no extra provisions for fertilizer subsidy, high cost of imports was not passed on to farmers, says the FM. PTI

"We did so in the case of fertilizer prices in 2021 which rose out of nowhere. But we didn't let the farmers down, we imported as much and more, and also didn't shift the burden on the farmers. It was not that I had a provision... for that already," she pointed out.

Responding to a suggestion by infrastructure sector veteran Vinayak Chatterjee to consider cutting the 28% GST levied on cement, which he termed "a bit unnatural" as it is used by non-bulk individual buyers who are unable to avail input tax credits, Ms. Sitharaman acknowledged there was room to review.

"On the GST, the end user in non-bulk cases... I see your point. Let's see. I will have the fitment committee look into it and then, if necessary, take it to the [GST] Council," the Finance Minister replied.

'Easing core inflation curbs need to lift rate'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday said core inflation in India had been declining sequentially, and an elevated 6.25% policy rate limits the need for further rate increases.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the short-term lending rate by 225 basis points since May last year to contain inflation, mostly driven by external factors, especially global supply chain disruption, following the Russia-Ukraine war outbreak.

The RBI's rate-setting panel – Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) – will decide on the interest rate on Wednesday. "In India, core inflation has been elevated for longer; however, it eased sequentially in the second half of 2022," S&P said in a report. The RBI has been tasked to ensure that retail inflation remains at 4% with a margin of 2%.

However, external factors have led retail inflation to remain above the upper tolerance limit for 11 months in a row. In November 2022, retail inflation came below the 6% level and slid further in December to 5.72%.

'Exposure to Adani won't hit bank ratings'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Global rating agencies Fitch and Moody's on Tuesday said banks' exposure to the Adani Group was not large enough to affect their credit quality, and bank ratings are driven by expectations that they would receive 'extraordinary' sovereign support, if needed.

"Fitch Ratings believes that Indian banks' exposure to the Adani group is insufficient in itself to present a substantial risk to the banks' standalone credit profiles," the rating agency said in a note.

Moody's said although exposures to the Adani Group are larger for public sector banks than for private banks, they are lower than 1% of total loans for most banks. "Risks for banks can increase if Adani becomes more reliant on bank loans," Moody's said.

Hindustan Zinc terms Africa zinc assets as an 'attractive opportunity'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Zinc Lt.d's proposed $2.98 billion purchase of THL Zinc Ltd., Mauritius, which owns zinc mines in Namibia and South Africa, via a related party is "an attractive opportunity" to grow, scale up its overseas foothold and take the brand global, the firm said on Tuesday.

Responding to exchanges' call for clarifications on reports the government was opposing the transaction, HZL said: "We are not aware of any information which has not been disclosed to... exchanges".

The transaction, approved by the HZL board on January 19, was opposed by all three government nominees on the board over several concerns, including valuations that would affect the Centre's plans to offload its residual 29.5% stake in the erstwhile public sector unit, which is now part of the Vedanta group.

"HZL will have the combined reserves and resources of 1,000+ mn T of ore and 65+ mn MT of metal across India and Africa," HZL said in a filing. "Zinc assets [owned by THL Zinc] have the potential to produce 1 million MT zinc at first quartile of global cost curve and to be the largest zinc producer in Africa," it said, adding it was fully compliant with relevant disclosure rules.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,286	-0.37
US Dollar	82.62	0.15
Gold	57,275	0.20
Brent oil	82.35	3.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1802.95	230.25
Adani Ports	553.15	7.70
Apollo Hosp	4315.60	-5.10
Asian Paints	2758.05	3.85
Axis Bank	879.10	-3.55
Bajaj Auto	3879.45	30.35
Bajaj Finserv	1350.40	7.35
Bajaj Finance	6160.55	56.35
Bharti Airtel	785.90	-3.35
BPCL	332.15	-1.60
Britannia Ind	4606.85	-18.80
Cipla	1031.30	1.50
Coal India	219.70	0.10
Divis Lab	2750.85	-27.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4440.25	90.70
Eicher Motors	3274.70	14.00
Grasim Ind	1616.30	-1.80
HCL Tech	1128.25	-17.45
HDFC	2679.20	-3.95
HDFC Bank	1654.20	2.45
HDFC Life	482.95	0.90
Hero MotoCorp	2652.60	-42.40
Hindalco	429.55	-17.80
Hind Unilever	2601.20	-36.40
ICICI Bank	852.75	-0.95
IndusInd Bank	1142.90	13.75
Infosys	1562.40	-7.45
ITC	373.25	-10.15
JSW Steel	714.10	3.05
Kotak Bank	1775.40	28.40
L&T	2165.30	9.20
M&M	1366.70	-9.30
Maruti Suzuki	8762.45	-145.55
NestleIndia	18978.00	-43.50
NTPC	165.25	-0.80
ONGC	144.65	1.15
PowerGrid Corp	216.85	-0.20
Reliance Ind	2305.90	-5.55
SBI Life	1131.75	-6.65
State Bank	547.10	1.70
Sun Pharma	1006.40	-16.95
TataConsumerProduct	728.20	-1.55
Tata Motors	435.45	-6.55
Tata Steel	111.45	-6.00
TCS	3472.55	12.60
Tech Mahindra	1002.45	-2.90
Titan	2446.90	-11.10
UltraTech Cement	7071.80	-55.45
UPL	709.25	-5.30
Wipro	400.50	-4.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
Euro	88.41	88.75
British Pound	98.99	99.37
Japanese Yen (100)	62.59	62.83
Chinese Yuan	12.15	12.20
Swiss Franc	89.18	89.54
Singapore Dollar	62.23	62.48
Canadian Dollar	61.50	61.75
Malaysian Ringitt	19.17	19.26
Australian Dollar	57.21	57.44

Source:Indian Bank

Bharti's Q3 ARPU helps net almost double to ₹1,588 cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel reported a 91.5% year-on-year rise in third-quarter consolidated net profit to ₹1,588 crore, helped by a jump in average revenue per user (ARPU) for its mobile services that lifted profit margin.

Total revenue rose almost 20% to ₹35,804 crore in the December quarter (Q3FY23) "backed by strong and consistent performance delivery across the portfolio", the company said in a statement.

Consolidated net income (after exceptional items) almost doubled to ₹1,588 crore in the October-December quarter.

The consolidated net income (before exceptional items) at ₹1,994 crore,

more than doubled, the telecom operator added.

Bharti Airtel Managing Director Gopal Vittal said the company delivered another quarter of consistent and competitive growth across businesses.

Margin expansion

"Revenue grew sequentially by 3.7%, while EBITDA margin expanded to 52%," Mr. Vittal said. "Our strategy of winning quality customers has helped us add 6.4 million 4G customers and exit the quarter with an industry leading ARPU of ₹193," he added.

DTH sees growth

Postpaid, enterprise, homes as well as Africa business sustained their momentum while the DTH business showed signs of growth in an industry that continues to be under pressure, Mr. Vittal noted.

The telecom operator's 5G rollout is on track to cover all towns and key rural areas by March 2024, the Bharti Airtel MD said.

Mobile ARPU (average revenue per user) increased to ₹193 in Q3 FY23 from ₹163 in Q3 FY22, according to the company.

The Ramco Cements Q3 net dips 19% on input costs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Ramco Cements Ltd. standalone net profit for the quarter ended December contracted to ₹67 crore from ₹83 crore from the year-earlier period on account of steep rise in input costs, mainly fuel prices.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹1,991 crore from ₹1,541 crore while input cost rose by 28% to ₹254 crore, the firm said in a regulatory filing.

There was good demand for cement from home and infrastructure segments. The medium-term outlook was encouraging in view of good monsoons and Centre's focus on infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/4059-SCP/2022-23/6634 Dated:06.02.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)
The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) for 2 works as per standard bid documents KW-4 with Different head of accounts costing of amount for Rs. 1800.00 Lakhs to Rs. 2600.00 Lakhs respectively, the EMD amount of Rs.18,00,000.00 to 26,00,000.00 for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) The Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors **Date-14-02-2023 @ 11.00 AM. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **Date-21-02-2023 upto 4.30 PM. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid **Date-22-02-2023 at 4.31 PM. 4)** Opening of Financial Bid **Date-23-02-2023 at 11.00 AM.** Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/839/KSMCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)
No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2022-23/8403 Date: 06.02.2023
-: ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT):-
The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in E-procurement portal in Public Works Department under KW- 4 Standard tender documents for a total of 02 works under 8443-Deposit work and 4059-TSP , with maximum & minimum tender amounts of Rs. 6320.20 Lakhs & Rs. 1001.87 Lakhs respectively and. maximum & minimum EMD amounts of Rs. 94,80,400/- & 15,02,000/- respectively, Tender receipt Date is on 21-02-2023 upto 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 22-02-2023 after 4.45 PM , For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.eproc.karnataka gov.in after 06.02.2023.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Division Belagavi
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1689/KSMCA/2022-23

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-procurement mode only)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-40(22-23/12942-43 Date: 06.02.2023
KPTCL invites bids against enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-60, Dated: 06.02.2023** for the work of **"Providing AMF Panel suitable for the existing 60kVA DG Set at 220kV Somanahalli Receiving Station along with Erection, Testing and Commissioning in Somanahalli Division, Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru"**.
The detailed notification regarding the subject tender can be got by logging on or after **08.02.2023** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission(Maintenance),BMAZ (South), KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga
Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)
No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/JE/JJM/E-Proc/2022-23/2683 Date: 07.02.2023
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.
Indent Nos: **(1) 55744 (2) 54738 (3) 54736 (4) 54603 (5) 54726 (6) 54994 (7) 54993 (8) 54992 (9) 48704 (10) 48530 (11) 48712 (12) 48950 (13) 48966(14) 48959 (15) 48964/Call2(16) 54902 (17) 54901 (18)54900 (19) 54899 (20) 54897 (21) 54894 (22) 54893 (23) 54892 (24) 54878 (25) 54871 (26)54870 (27) 54852 (28) 54797 (29) 54780 (30) 54783 (31) 54740 (32) 54737 (33) 54735.**
Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only.
Few conditions of the tender :
(1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **11.02.2023 upto 5.30 PM. (2)** Date of opening of Single Cover Financial bid: **13.02.2023 at 11.30 A.M (3)** Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **13.02.2023 at 11.30 AM. (4)** Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **15.02.2023 at 11.30 A M. (5)** Specified time period for completion of works: **Single cover: 3/6 months (90/180 days).**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.
DIPR/SMG/No.84/Zenkar/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ. ಮತ್ತು ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ – ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ
ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ&ನೈವಿ/ಎಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :/ಜೆ.ಜೆ.ಎಂ/11/ /2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06–02–2023
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (E-Proc) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, **ಜೆ.ಜೆ.ಎಂ.** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸುಂಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪ, ನಾರ್ಗಾಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲುಗುಲಿ, ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಫ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು	599.62

1) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ – ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ : 09–02–2023 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2) ಭರ್ತಿಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–02–2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–02–2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.05 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24–02–2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸೂಚನೆ : ಇತರೇ ಷರತ್ತು, ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ & ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ–ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

'Green energy switch must be affordable'

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

India, the world's third largest oil consumer, on Tuesday said it is committed to energy transition but surviving the present and cushioning the vulnerable from price volatilities is essential before moving to clean and green energy.

India has committed to net zero carbon emission by 2070 and repeatedly emphasised that 'dirty' fuels like oil and coal, on which the economy is two-thirds dependent, will have to be in use in the foreseeable future.

An immediate shift from low-priced coal and oil to expensive fuels such as hydrogen will entail huge costs in a nation with low per capita income.

Hardeep Singh Puri

"We have to make sure our transition entails surviving the present and cushioning vulnerable from volatility," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at India Energy Week. "The transition has to be affordable and sustainable for vulnerable sections."

Energy security no longer global: Rosneft

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

There is no unified global energy market and energy security is no longer global, Russia's powerful oil executive Igor Sechin said amid talk of countries coming together to check volatility in prices and ensure smooth transition to net zero.

Speaking at the India Energy Week here, Mr. Sechin, chief executive of Rosneft, said all principles of market trading have been destroyed and market pricing and contract law abolished.

Russia was slapped with sanctions by some Western countries following the war in Ukraine. Some countries in Europe stopped buying contracted natural gas. Russian crude was traded at discounts as high as $40 per barrel.

Abandoning Russian gas has already cost Europe about €1 trillion.

He said India, having become the most populous country in the world, is turning into a leader in global economic dynamics.

India faces selection dilemma; Australia beset with injuries

The home team likely to choose between Gill and Suryakumar for a batting slot, and pick either Kuldeep or Axar as the third spinner; the visitors are set to miss the services of Starc, Hazlewood and Green for series opener

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

India may have started the new year with a month of bilateral limited-overs series, but the four-Test series between India and Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy will actually kick in the cricket fever at home that will culminate with the ODI World Cup towards the end of the year.

These four Tests will decide whether India will face Australia one more time, albeit at a neutral venue in England, in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

With less than 48 hours remaining for the series to commence on Thursday, here's a look at the major talking points from both the camps.

Vital cogs: Kohli and Rahul will be determined to set the tone for the four-Test series with stellar performances. K.R. DEEPAK

Batting conundrum

Captain Rohit Sharma's opening partner and injured Shreyas Iyer's replacement are the two main issues for the Indian camp, with three contenders for the two slots.

Vice-captain K.L. Rahul, fresh from a wedding break, and in-form Shubman Gill are the primary contenders for the opening slot. Despite the duo having a prolonged stint at the start of India's nets session at the VCA Stadium on Tuesday, the indications are Rahul will keep the opener's slot. It will then boil down to either Gill or Suryakumar Yadav vying for Shreyas' slot.

With Gill having performed exceedingly well in his limited opportunities across formats, going by the policy of the management of not disturbing the pecking order, he should be preferred over Suryakumar.

Interestingly, head coach Rahul Dravid had a long chat with Gill about facing off-spin bowling during India's training. Unless there is a drastic change in plan, it looks like Rahul will open the innings and Gill will be pushed down the order, with Rohit reclaiming his opening spot after missing the Bangladesh series.

Ravindra Jadeja is set to play his first match for India in five months and the all-rounder is set to realign with R. Ashwin.

With the Jamtha strip set to be a rank turner, it is all but given that they will have company in a third spinner.

It will be a toss-up between Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. While Kuldeep has the surprise element as a left-arm wrist-spinner, Axar has the advantage of being an all-rounder.

That Kuldeep has a five-wicket haul in his last Test outing in Bangladesh makes the team management's job even more difficult.

Injury concerns

While India has to deal with combination issues, Australia is struck down with multiple injury blows. As if Mitchell Starc's absence from the opener wasn't severe, ace pacer Josh Hazlewood joined the injury ranks even before Australia arrived here on Monday.

On Tuesday, veteran batter Steve Smith admitted that all-rounder Cameron Green, unable to bowl in the first half of the series, is virtually ruled out of the opening rubber.

As a result, Australia is likely to pick Ashton Agar as Nathan Lyon's spin partner while Scott Boland may be preferred over Lance Morris as captain Pat Cummins' new-ball partner.

Rahul and Smith cautious about pitch for first Test

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

It may not be a dustbowl, but the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium is set to accede to the wish of the home team and offer a turning track for the series-opener of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting Thursday.

"It's pretty dry. Particularly one end that I think will take a bit of spin, particularly the left-arm spinner spinning it back into our left-handers. There is a section there that's quite dry. Other than that, I can't really get a good gauge on it," Australia veteran Steve Smith said.

"I don't think there will be a heap of bounce in the wicket. I think for the seamers it will be quite skiddy and maybe a bit of up-and-down movement as the game goes on. The cracks felt quite loose. We will wait and see when we get out there."

Interestingly, soon after Smith's assessment, the ground-staff watered the wicket under the watchful eyes of the VCA curator Abhijit Piprode and BCCI-deputed curator Taposh Chatterjee. With the mercury rising every passing day, the loose surface is set to crumble with every passing day.

What's in store? India captain Rohit and coach Dravid inspect the pitch at the VCA Stadium on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

Vice-captain K.L. Rahul adopted a cautious approach when he was asked about the pitch. "Yes, we did see it (the pitch), but it's still too early to really know what the pitch is going to do," Rahul said.

"We need to come here on the day of the match to know how it's really going to play. We can only look at it and assume it's going to play a certain way, but you never know with pitches."

With India needing to win three games to seal a berth in the World Test Championship final irrespective of the outcome of the other international series, the pitches for the first two Tests are set to be rank turners.

India goes down to Australia in Women's T20 WC warm-up match

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

Batting let India down once again as it collapsed like a pack of cards to suffered a 44-run loss to Australia in a Women's T20 World Cup warm-up match on Monday.

Asked to field, the Indian bowlers blew away the Australian top order but tail-enders Georgia Wareham (32) and Jess Jonassen's (22) unbeaten 50-run partnership powered the team to 129 for eigth.

In reply, the Indian batters were skittled out for 85 in 15 overs.

The scores: Australia 129/8 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 28, Georgia Wareham 32, Shikha Pandey 2/9, Pooja Vastrakar 2/16, Radha Yadav 2/22) bt India 85 in 15 overs (Darcie Brown 4/17).

A day to remember: Pithiya says meeting Ashwin was like being over the moon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The best moment of my career: Pithiya on meeting idol Ashwin

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

He has been a part of Australia's camp as a support bowler for the month of February. But more than dismissing Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne on multiple occasions during his week-long stint so far, off-spinner Mahesh Pithiya had "the best moment" of his career on Tuesday.

After all, the young Baroda spinner who has cloned his action on R. Ashwin met the master himself at the VCA Stadium on Tuesday.

"I was desperate to meet him and knew it would happen today since it was the first time both the camps were training at the same venue," Pithiya told *The Hindu*.

"Nathan (Lyon) took me up to Ashwin and I was kind of speechless for a moment. I was thrilled when he mentioned me on his YouTube channel but to actually meet him was like being over the moon. The best moment of my career so far."

So what exactly did he and Ashwin discuss about? "He just asked me to keep working hard, but more importantly, he wanted to know how are the Australians batting against spin. I just passed on all my observations because after all *dil hai Hindustani* (I am an Indian)," he signed off.

Finch pulls the plug on his international career

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Australian men's T20 captain Aaron Finch announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday, saying he was honoured to play with some of the best in the game.

A destructive opening batter at his peak, Finch's position has been under a cloud since Australia failed to make the knockout stage of last year's T20 World Cup at home.

It was not immediately clear who would replace the Victoria-born batter, who has captained the team in 76 of the 103 T20Is he has played since debuting against England in 2011.

"Realising that I won't be playing on until the next T20 World Cup in 2024, now is the right moment to step down and give the team time to plan and build towards that event," he said.

The 36-year-old captained Australia to its maiden T20 World Cup victory in Dubai in 2021. He retired as Australia's one-day skipper last September.

"To be able to represent Australia for 12 years and play with and against some of the greatest players of all time has been an incredible honour," he said.

Highest scorer in T20Is

Finch holds the record for the highest score in a T20I, which he set by smashing 172 off 76 balls against Zimbabwe in 2018. He also holds the record for the third-highest T20I score – 156 against England in 2013.

Cricket Australia chairman Lachlan Henderson said Finch was one of Australia's "finest white-ball players".

Although prolific in limited-overs cricket – he scored 5,406 ODI runs and 3,120 in T20Is – Finch failed to make an impact in the Test arena.

He played five Tests for Australia in 2018 but was dropped from the side after failing to impress selectors.

Calling it a day: Finch with wife Amy and daughter Esther at the MCG, after announcing his retirement. AFP

Siraj and Gill shortlisted for ICC POTM Award

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Mohammed Siraj and Shubman Gill were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month (POTM) Award for their stellar show in January.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway is the third contender for the award.

Gill displayed his batting prowess in both the white-ball formats last month while Siraj led India's fast-bowling attack with distinction in ODIs in recent times.

Kerala Blasters survives early jolt to down Chennaiyin

ISL-9

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Chennaiyin FC's opening goal, soon after the start, caught everybody napping but there were no further surprises as Kerala Blasters recovered to score a 2-1 win in the Indian Super League at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday.

The victory helped the Blasters strengthen their third spot in the league ladder with 31 points while Chennaiyin stayed in the eighth rung with 18.

Soon after midfielder Abdenasser El Khayati – the visitor's top goalscorer this season – gave an unexpected lead, picking up a Peter Sliskovic pass and scoring in the second minute before any of the home boys could settle in their positions, Blasters got a grip on the game. They created plenty of chances but their Greek forward Diamantakos could not utilise them well.

Top star: Luna played his part for Blasters with a goal and an assist. R.K. NITHIN

Equaliser

Blasters dominated the match, advancing frequently through the left and one such move which involved defender Jessel Carneiro, Sahal Samad and Adrian Luna saw the last-named find the top right corner of the net with a stunning shot.

Just before half-time, Chennaiyin's Vincy Barretto's shot was pushed over smartly by the Blasters goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Gill who was in fine nick while Nishu Kumar kept the Chennaiyin forward Petar Sliskovic on a tight leash.

Blasters took the lead shortly after the hour-mark following a throw-in from the right after which Luna, the star of the show, sent a cross to K.P. Rahul who guided it home from left.

Though Chennaiyin made some desperate attempts towards the end, it had to return disappointed. The visitor's chances of entering the six-team playoffs is now almost over.

The result:

Kerala Blasters 2 (Adrian Luna 38, K.P. Rahul 64) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (Abdenasser El Khayati 2).

INBRIEF

Ballance scripts history as he leads Zimbabwe's fightback

Former England player Gary Ballance became only the second Test batter, after Kepler Wessels (Australia and South Africa), to score a century for two countries, hitting an unbeaten 137 (231b, 12x4, 2x6) for Zimbabwe against West Indies in Bulawayo on Tuesday.

The scores: West Indies 447/6 decl. in 143 overs & 21/0 in 13 overs vs Zimbabwe 379/9 decl. in 125 overs (Gary Ballance 137 n.o., Innocent Kaia 67, Brandon Mavuta 56, Alzarri Joseph 3/75).

Nepal dents India's chances at SAFF u-20 women's c'ship

India is staring at an early elimination from the SAFF u-20 women's championship after suffering a 1-3 defeat against Nepal here on Tuesday. India has four points to Nepal's six.

The result: Nepal 3 (Anjali Chand 48, Preeti Rai 69-pen, Amisha Karki 89) bt India 1 (Apurna Narzary 21).

Railways emerges BCCI senior women's one-day champion

Railways defeated Karnataka by three wickets in the final to win the BCCI senior women's one-day trophy at Ranchi.

The scores (final): Karnataka 163 in 49.4 overs (G. Divya 69, Tanuj Kanwer 3/26) lost to Railways 169/6 in 47.3 overs (Mona 29, T. Sarkar 25, D. Hemalatha 38 n.o., Tanuja Kanwer 31, Shreyanka Patil 3/45).

Ghana's Atsu pulled alive from Turkey earthquake rubble

Ghana international winger Christian Atsu has been found alive after being buried under rubble in the earthquake that hit Turkey, the vice-president of his club Hatayspor told media on Tuesday.

Chennai Blitz gets the better of Kochi Blue Spikers in PVL

Chennai Blitz took out Kochi Blue Spikers 15-9, 11-15, 15-10, 8-15, 15-9 in their first game of the Season 2 of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League at the Koramangala Stadium, Bengaluru, on Tuesday. With this win, Chennai Blitz gained two points. Chennai attacker Naveen Raja Jacob was named as the player-of-the-match.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (semifinal), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

KIYG: Star Sports 3, DD Sports, Hotstar & FanCode, 10 a.m. onwards

Zimbabwe vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 5, FanCode, 1 p.m.

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Karnataka and Saurashtra ready for punch-up

The hosts will look to settle scores as they had lost three games and conceded lead in two others in the last five matches between the two teams; the visitors will miss the star trio of Pujara, Ravindra Jadeja and Unadkat which is away on national duty

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

As far as Ranji Trophy rivalries go, Karnataka versus Saurashtra is no Rumble in the Jungle. Both teams do fancy a good punch-up, like they did here in the controversy-ridden 2018-19 semifinal that Saurashtra won, but the match-up is neither very old nor as fierce. The battle is still in its early rounds.

What is true though is that Saurashtra, of late, has been Karnataka's nemesis. Of the last five matches between the two, Karnataka has lost three and conceded the first-innings lead in the other two.

As both teams head into the semifinal clash at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium starting Wednesday, Karnataka has a score to settle.

Honing their skills: Karnataka players at a practice session ahead of their semifinal against Saurashtra. SUDHAKARA JAIN

It will help that Saurashtra will miss the star trio of Cheteshwar Pujara, Ravindra Jadeja and Jaydev Unadkat, all of them away on National duty.

Pujara's, in particular, will be a big absence, for he has scored 1193 First Class runs against Karnataka in just eight matches, the most against any Indian opponent.

But in recent times, no team has worked its way towards securing the tag of a stalwart quite like Saurashtra and its pedigree can alone make Karnataka wary.

In the time since Karnataka last reached the final (2014-15), Saurashtra has made the summit clash thrice and won the title once.

Last week, it won the quarterfinal against Punjab without Pujara, Ravindra Jadeja and Unadkat, with left-arm spinner Parth Bhut scoring an unbeaten century, a fifty and claiming a match-haul of eight wickets. Dharmendrasinh Jadeja's 37 wickets, skipper Arpit Vasavada's 577 runs and Harvik Desai's 516 runs have been the other bright spots this season.

Tough nut to crack

But an in-form Karnataka, at home, will be a tough nut to crack. While its batters can be expected to continue their fine form, the home pace-battery, on what coach P.V. Shashikanth reckons will be a seamer-friendly pitch, should revel.

The trio of V. Vyshak, Vidwath Kaverappa and V. Koushik have together accounted for 76 wickets. M. Venkatesh made his debut in place of the then-injured Koushik in the quarterfinal against Uttarakhand and impressed with seven wickets, thus creating a selection headache.

"It's good for the side to have an embarrassment of riches," said Shashikanth. "There is a lot of fuel in the tank and we will go with the combination that can help take 20 wickets. If you see, we have been unbeatable in the league phase. We just want to continue that streak."

The squads (from):

Karnataka: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), R. Samarth, Devdutt Padikkal, Nikin Jose, Manish Pandey, K.V. Siddharth, Sharath Srinivas, Nihal Ullal, K. Gowtham, Shreyas Gopal, Shubhang Hegde, Vidwath Kaverappa, V. Koushik, V. Vyshak, M. Venkatesh.

Saurashtra: Arpit Vasavada (Capt.), Sheldon Jackson, Prerak Mankad, Chiraj Jani, Samarth Vyas, Harvik Desai, Chetan Sakariya, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Snell Patel, Yuvraj Dodiya, Parth Bhut, Navneet Vora, Devang Karamta, Kushang Patel, Vishwarajsing Jadeja.

Bengal will be keen to dethrone Madhya Pradesh

Dhruva Prasad
INDORE

Defending champion and emerging heavyweight Madhya Pradesh's exuberance will meet Bengal's dogged desperation to end a 33-year-long title drought when the two teams clash in the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Holkar Stadium here from Wednesday.

Bengal stumbled at the same hurdle against the same opposition last season and will hope to make amends in its third-consecutive semifinal appearance.

The hosts, meanwhile, had to recover from a roller-coaster quarterfinal against Andhra at the same venue, where they scripted a five-wicket win after conceding a 151-run first-innings lead.

Facile entry

Bengal which drubbed Jharkhand by nine wickets in the quarterfinal, enjoyed a facile entry into the last-four stage, but will have to be wary of being caught off guard against an opposition that can prey on a single session of weakness. A case in point is pace spearhead Avesh Khan, Madhya Pradesh's leading wicket-taker this season with 36 scalps at 17.08, who picked four for 24 and turned the match on its head as Andhra collapsed for 93 in the second innings.

This is where Bengal's experience will hold it in good stead. At 37 and 38, respectively, captain Manoj Tiwary and Anustup Majumdar have been among the runs while Abhimanyu Easwaran's 738 runs at an average of 92.25 has been the highlight.

Young Sudip Kumar Gharami has delivered on his promise (636 runs; average 53) and Bengal's batting looks solid.

The pace trio of Akash Deep, Ishan Porel and Mukesh Kumar have ensured Bengal doesn't concede in excess of 300 more than once this season.

With Shahbaz Ahmed and Pradipta Pramanik shouldering spin duties, the Madhya Pradesh batters will have their task cut out. Barring Rajat Patidar, no MP batter averages 50 or above this season and captain Aditya Shrivastava's horror form has been a concern.

Shubham Sharma has offered stability at No. 3, but openers Himanshu Mantri and Yash Dubey have lacked consistency of late.

With conditions favouring both spinners and seamers and low-scoring games being the order of the day at the venue, graft with the bat could be pivotal.

The teams (from):

Bengal: Manoj Tiwary (Capt.), Abhimanyu Eswaran, Anustup Majumdar, Sudip Gharami, Suvankar Bal, Shahbaz Ahmed, Abishek Porel (wk), Ishan Porel, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Kazi Junaid Saifi, Pradipta Pramanik, Geet Puri, Pritam Chakraborty, Sumanta Gupta, Ankit Mishra, Akash Ghatak and Durgesh Dubey, Karan Lal.

Madhya Pradesh: Aditya Shrivastava (c), Rajat Patidar, Yash Dubey, Himanshu Mantri, Harsh Gawli, Shubham Sharma, Akshat Raghuwanshi, Aman Solanki, Kumar Kartikeya, Saransh Jain, Avesh Khan, Ankit Kushwaha, Gaurav Yadav, Anubhav Agarwal, Mihir Hirwani.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Viransh's unbeaten ton is to no avail

Viransh Sarvotham's unbeaten 100 went in vain as Star Cricketers lost to Blaze CC in the KSCA Group I, V division league tournament here.

The scores: Star Cricketers XI 217/7 in 50 overs (P.G. Reddy 26, Viransh Sarvotham 100 n.o., Preetosh Andani 26 n.o., Mahesh Reddy 3/14) lost to Blaze 218/9 in 41.3 overs (Afzal Khan 30, R. Jagadish 41, S.B. Rajesh 35, Shashank Ramdas 45 n.o., K.Y. Ayush 3/30).

United CC 96 in 27.3 overs (V. Kishore 28, Pradeep 5/2) lost to Citizen Cultural CA 100/3 in 16.0 overs (C. Tarun 42, D. Gagan 34 n.o.).

United Cricketers 381/8 in 50 overs (Jones Samuel 34, S. Murugan 117, Dandapani 47, Shadab Azar 69 n.o., Bhuvan Shankar 3/81) bt SJ Polytechnic 51 in 15.1 overs (Prashanth Shetty 3/20, Saleem Malick 5/26).

YMCA (3) 130 in 37.2 overs (L. Rakshith 44, M.J. Vivekananda 3/13) lost to Yuvaka Sangha 131/6 in 19.2 overs (Aryan Kaveriappa 36 n.o., Manikanth 51, Aditya Pratap 4/17).

Sapphire 373 in 49.2 overs (K.P. Bipin 113, Amit Shashikant 85, Ankush Bopanna 44, Dominic Fernandes 42, Gitesh Kumar 5/65) bt Oriental 203 in 41.5 overs (Samith Prabhu 27, Arpith Jain 32, Tejas Reddy 70, Inayath Pasha 3/38, Shameek Kolambkar 3/45).

Government Arts College 126 in 38 overs (Adithya Shetty 29, Chirag Jain 3/31) lost to Unique CC 128 for no loss in 16.2 overs (H.R. Jayanth 63 n.o., M.S. Chetan 60 n.o.).

Young Boys 187 in 34 overs (Mohan Kumar 68, Suraj Shivakumar 32, Chethan Gowda 5/62, Nikhil Srinivas 3/45) lost to Anekal Town 188/9 in 34.2 overs (Srinivasa Karthikeya 73, V. Venugopal 5/51).

Vasanthanagar Cricketers 83 in 25.5 overs (Ayushman 44, Katamreddi Sai 3/13, Deepu Gupta 3/5) lost to Jaidur Cricketers 84/2 in 9.5 overs (M.S. Sapthagiri 28).

Rainbow beats JFHA

Rainbow HC defeated JFHA 4-2 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league here.

The results: Rainbow HC 4 (Babu Kanna 10, Karna Siva 17, M. Karthick 33, B. Magesh 35) bt JFHA 2 (Deepender 25, Aravind Raj 44).

Metro HC 2 (Kabilan 22, Logesh 43) bt Shlok HC 1 (B.K. Prajwal 15).

AGORC rides on Jai Kumar's brace

Jai Kumar's brace helped AGORC defeat RWF 3-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Tuesday.

The results:

Income Tax FC 2 (B. Sunny 22, A. Sema 37) drew with DYES 2 (T.M. Madam 18, Sharanappa 76); AGORC FC 3 (Jai Kumar 54, 62, S. Sailesh 80) bt RWF 1 (Melvin Emmanual 24).

Stunning Force claims feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer S.S.F. Hassan's Stunning Force (Mohit Singh up) claimed the Elite Zone Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Feb. 7) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Venkata Krishna Reddy Challuri, Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig & Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy. Trainers D. Netto and R.H. Sequeira saddled three winners each, while S. Saqlain rode three winners on the day.

1. MADANNA PLATE (DIV. II): GUSTY NOTE (S. Saqlain) 1, Red River (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Sea Of Class (D.S. Deora) 3 and Space Time (Kuldeep S) 4. 2-1/4, Shd and 1/2. 1m, 13.89s. ₹20 (w), 12, 18 and 17 (p). SHP: 68, THP: 45, SHW: 11 and 60, FP: 93, Q: 84, Tanala: 474. Favourite: Gusty Note. Owners: Wing Commander D.S. Gill and Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. T. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. PERCEIVED VALUE PLATE: BRILLIANT STAR (Suraj Narredu) 1, Windsor (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Warwick (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Colt Pistol (G. Naresh) 4. 5-1/2, Shd and 1-1/4. 1m, 5.90s. ₹15 (w), 11, 14 and 10 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 30, FP: 46, Q: 40, Tanala: 75. Favourite: Brilliant Star. Owners: Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Mr. Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. MALVADO PLATE (DIV. I): LINEWILER (Kiran Naidu) 1, Pinatubo (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Blazing Jupiter (P.Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Inside Story (Nakhat Singh) 4. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.69s. ₹59 (w), 18, 13 and 16 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 48, SHW: 21 and 19, FP: 152, Q: 72, Tanala: 1,170. Favourite: Pinatubo. Owner: Mr. Prabhaker Reddy Solipuram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. MADANNA PLATE (DIV. I): STAR CRUISE (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Ayur Tej (Akshay Kumar) 2, First Class (D.S. Deora) 3 and Ar Superior (Santosh Raj) 4. 3/4, Nk and 1/2. 1m, 13. 92s. ₹54 (w), 16, 12 and 37 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 101, SHW: 43 and 12, FP: 190, Q: 95, Tanala: 3,444. Favourite: Ayur Tej. Owner: Mr. Ch. Naga Nancharayya. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

5. FOREST TREASURE PLATE (DIV. II): ALL TIME LEGEND (S. Saqlain) 1, Above The Law (Mohit Singh) 2 and Garnet (D.S. Deora) 3 and Laurus (Akshay Kumar) 4. Nk, 2 and Nk. 1m, 12.52s. ₹19 (w), 12, 59 and 20 (p). SHP: 196, THP: 57, SHW: 16 and 100, FP: 298, Q: 207, Tanala: 2,239. Favourite: All Time Legend. Owner: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. MALVADO PLATE (DIV. II): SALLY (S. Saqlain) 1, Blast In Class (Sura Narredu) 2, Fatuma (Kuldeep S) 3 and Golden Forza (D.S. Deora) 4. Nk, 2 and 3/4. 1m, 13.25s. ₹102 (w), 27, 15 and 16 (p). SHP: 57, THP: 47, SHW: 45 and 29, FP: 954, Q: 292, Tanala: 2,616. Favourite: D Yes Boss. Owner & Trainer: D. Netto.

7. ELITE ZONE PLATE: STUNNING FORCE (Mohit Singh) 1, Trump Star (S. Saqlain) 2, Shazam (D.S. Deora) 3 and Mark My Day (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. Not run: Lifes Song. 1, Nk and Nk. 1m, 25.64s. ₹146 (w), 26, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 46, SHW: 45 and 30, FP: 887, Q: 336, Tanala: 2,600. Favourite: Premier Action. Owners: Mr. Venkata Krishna Reddy Challuri, Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig & Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

8. FOREST TREASURE PLATE (DIV. I): MALAALA (Kiran Naidu) 1, Briar Ridge (Santosh Raj) 2, Beauty On Parade (D.S. Deora) 3 and City Of Blessing (P. Ajeeth Kumar 3. 2-3/4, 1-1/2 and Dht. 1m, 11.62s. ₹27 (w), 13, 36, 10 and 25 (p). SHP: 105, THP: 30 and 65, SHW: 16 and 63, FP: 215, Q: 169, Tanala: 452 and 1,761. Favourite: Malaala. Owners: Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimrah Mirza Shakeebai & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

9. SWAMY RAMANANDA TIRTHA PLATE: CLEFAIRY (Santosh Raj) 1, Classical Music (Gaurav Singh) 2, Power Ranger (Aneel) 3 and London Bell (Nakhat Singh) 4. Nk, 1/2 and 1/2. 1m, 26.72s. ₹30 (w), 13, 24 and 49 (p). SHP: 61, THP: 83, SHW: 19 and 39, FP: 128, Q: 81, Tanala: 1,176. Favourite: Clefairy. Owners: Mr. Mukund Kakani & Mr. S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹5,561 (18 tkts.) & 30%: 715 (60 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 57,175 (10 tkts.) & 30%: 8,449 (29 tkts.); Treble: (i) 281 (88 tkts.), (ii) 3,116 (13 tkts.), (iii) 2,193 (43 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: (i) 4,404 (12 tkts.), (ii) 84,000 (c/f).

An India-Australia series is about cricket, there's no baggage

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

It has always been different with Australia. There is a purity to India-Australia cricket that is missing from series against other teams. With others, from England to Pakistan, there is the baggage of politics, religion, ethnicity, or culture. With Australia, the focus has been the cricket; the game is not part of a larger narrative. Cricket has stood for itself and not as a vessel for other emotions and sentiments.

Australia were the first country Independent India toured, three months after the tricolour was raised. Decades before that, soldiers from the two countries fought on the same side in the first World War at Gallipoli and the Far East. As India's coach Rahul Dravid pointed out in his superb Bradman Oration of 2011, "Before we were competitors, Indians and Australians were comrades."

Gallipoli (in Turkey) might have been a disaster for the Allies, but as one historian put it, the national character of Australia and New Zealand were forged on its beaches.

Melbourne-born all-rounder Frank Tarrant was called "India's oldest cricket friend" by a London newspaper in the 1930s. Tarrant organized an Australian tour of India for the first time in 1935-36, having earlier helped prepare the Indian team for the inaugural home Test and series against England. He also umpired in the first two Tests. Jack Ryder, Don Bradman's first captain, led on that first tour, a private one.

In an excellent biography of Tarrant, Australian writer and Indophile, Mike Coward has written, "Ambitious and driven, he foresaw that India was destined for greatness as a cricket nation and implored the authorities in Australia to open their minds to the inevitability of a paradigm shift in the cricket world."

Coward also wrote a lyrical book on cricket in the subcontinent. Interestingly, two of the more interesting books on Indian cricket were also written by Australians. While Edward Docker's *History of Indian Cricket* (published in 1976) focused on the politics, Richard Cashman's *The Phenomenon of Indian Cricket* (1980) explored the cultural and sociological aspects of the game in India.

The great Duleepsinhji might not have played for India, but after his playing career, he served as the High Commisioner to Australia in 1950.

In the years when England sent less than their full first team to play in India, Australia had the courtesy to field their best team, thus making them popular tourists in a country which understood what this compliment meant. Allan Border, who shares the name of the trophy the teams contest for with Sunil Gavaskar, toured ten times between 1979 and 1989, leading the revival of Australian cricket with the World Cup win in 1987.

Intense competition

None of these connections has, of course, reduced the intensity of the competition between the two countries, which is as it should be. India have won half of the 20 Tests between the countries in the last decade, losing just five – a record that includes successive series wins in Australia. The last time India lost a home series to Australia was in 2004. Against that background, India must start favourites when the four-Test series commences in Nagpur on Thursday.

Except for the odd crack about pitches (former player Ian Healy believes Australia will win if India prepare "fair pitches", thus insulting both teams in one go), the decibel level pre-bout has been somewhat low. This is surprising given that most teams, and especially Australia, like to get in a shot or three off-field before the start of a series.

Elaborate ploy?

The story of the faux-Ashwin, Mahesh Pithiya, has both entertained and impressed Indian fans. The resemblance the Baroda off spinner has to Ashwin in his build-up and release meant he became a part of the visitors' preparations to meet the original, taker of 449 Test wickets, 89 of them Australian. Or it could be an elaborate Australian ploy to keep the focus away from an Indian bowler they have even more serious trouble against! Cricket is played as much in the head as on the field.

In recent years, some of the great museum-worthy cricketing art have been sculpted in an India-Australia series, which might be the biggest reason of all for the anticipation with which every series is welcomed. The batting of Virat Kohli and Steve Smith, the bowling of Nathan Lyon and Ashwin are already in that museum. This series could see another generation add their creations to that list – Shubhman Gill, Cameron Green, Trevor Head, Kuldeep Yadav might be the artistes ready to do exactly that.